



Kelsey Lane Merritt

May 19, 1992 - May 17, 2026

A bright light went out in the world upon the loss of our beautiful and beloved Kelsey Lane Merritt on May 17, 2026, two days shy of her 34th birthday. Kelsey's parents Mike and Marian Merritt and older brother Jonathon (J.D.) welcomed her with tremendous joy when she was born in 1992 in Richmond, Texas. Known for her enduring kindness, adventurous spirit and pursuit of perfection, Kelsey had a happy childhood spending time at the family retreat, Dos Lagos, attending numerous sporting events as a spectator until she herself could begin competing, spending many hours reading, studying, drawing and dreaming of great things, and also traveling with her grandmother Pat. Her artistic nature was evident throughout her life, and she always had a project either in progress or was actively planning the next one. A lover of all creatures great and small like her mother, Kelsey lavished love on many pets, bringing home a number

of cats and dogs in need of a better life and always helping out animals in need.

A gifted athlete, Kelsey was recognized as first team All-State in both Track and Cross

Country having run in middle and high school. She also qualified as an All-State

Academic athlete. Kelsey was awarded a scholarship to Angelo State University, where

she attained her Bachelor's degree in 2014 and two years later her Masters degree.

She always successfully managed both academics and sports achievements concurrently and was also awarded a Carr grant for academic excellence.

After graduation, her zest for adventure and the challenge of improving the lives of

others first took her to Dallas to work in professional recruiting and employee training.

While there, Kelsey also pushed herself to pursue a passion for entertaining others by

being part of a local improv group at Improv Comedy Club Dallas. The corporate world

did not provide the opportunity to improve people's lives as much as Kelsey had hoped,

so in 2022 she became a licensed massage therapist, providing a healing touch to

soothe body and soul. In 2023, she returned to corporate work as a human resources

specialist for several years, where she excelled in helping new employees acclimate to

their positions, including creating programs to assist women in leadership,

veterans in
the workplace, and just generally helping fellow team members pursue
wellness. In
early 2026, as she began seeking a career that would provide more personal
fulfillment
and a way to impact others, she returned to massage therapy, creating her
own
company, Chair Massage by Kelsey. Kelsey was traveling back from Colorado
when her

tragic accident occurred, and it gives her family solace to know that she was
scouting
out her next adventure and a better horizon to enhance a life helping others.

With her inherent generosity and selfless dedication, Kelsey was a frequent
volunteer
for Habitat for Humanity and the Central Texas Food Bank in Rockdale and
Cameron.
Her family lost track of all the time she volunteered at area animal shelters
over the
years.

Preceded in death by her infant sister Jessica, paternal grandfather Bill Merritt
and maternal
grandparents Ben and Ellen Urbanek, Kelsey is survived by her parents, Mike
and
Marian Merritt, brother J.D. Merritt and his wife L.J., and grandmother Pat
Merritt. She is
also survived by nieces Lilly Merritt and Blakely Sumner, nephews Lincoln and
Kelton

Sumner and baby nephew Cash Merritt, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends left to treasure the memory of a girl with the most beautiful smile and an intensely compassionate heart.

A memorial service is scheduled for June 4, 2026 at 1:30 p.m at Circle C Barn in Caldwell, TX. Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Caldwell will be coordinating the memorial. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kelsey's honor to Habitat for Humanity, Central Texas Food Bank, Genesis Women's Shelter, or an animal shelter or rescue of your choice. The family will have a basket and they have requested loved ones bring a letter composed to Kelsey with any memories or thoughtful words you would like to share.

Upcoming Events

Memorial Service

JUN 4. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Circle C Barn at Copperas Creek
245 Country Club Dr
Caldwell, TX 77836

Reception

JUN 4. 2:30 PM (CT)

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