



Kay Odene McMillan

September 18, 1959 - July 31, 2025

Kay Odene McMillan's beautiful, loving, fun soul went to be with the Lord on July 31, 2025, at home in Brentwood listening to Keb'Mo's song, "She Just Wants to Dance". She was born Kay O. Thompson in Denver, Colorado, to Cullen Richard and Jane Taylor Thompson on September 18, 1959.

She lived in Denver; Casper, Wyoming; Oklahoma City; Denver a second time; and Houston, all before leaving high school. Her mother died from cancer when Kay was 15. Kay graduated from Spring High School in Spring, Texas. Kay graduated in 1985 from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, with an MBA degree in business administration, having earned a bachelor's degree in finance and management with a minor in economics. Kay moved to Nashville and began a varied and successful career as a bank examiner, loan review examiner, and commercial retail leasing agent.

Kay embraced life with the motto, "Find something fun every day," and that she did. She was a lifeguard, avid skier, and rollerblader. With a show-stopping smile for everyone, she was extraordinarily creative and fun-loving. She was a vital part of the group known as the Chicago Girls and enjoyed traveling and celebrating at any opportunity. She loved sports of all kinds and was the only back-to-back winner of the family Fantasy Football League trophy. Given her love for music and sports, she started a new career with

Best and Axis Security. Within two years and three months, Kay worked securing more than 370 concerts; football, hockey and soccer games; races; and dozens of private events.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant sister, Page; stepsiblings Russell Hallonquist and Lisa Bair; her first husband, Lowell Berry; and Mitch's son John.

She is survived by her husband, Mitchell McMillan of Brentwood, and his four children —Anna (JD) Doupe of Santa Maria, California, Wes and Seth of Davenport, Iowa and Luke of Loves Park, Illinois; stepmother, Doris Thompson of Houston; sister, Jill (Dan) Black of Kalispell, Montana; brother Bart Thompson of Magnolia, Texas; aunts Margaret Thompson of Fort Morgan, Colorado, and Marilyn McDermott of Chandler, Arizona; several cousins; in-law parents Larry and Vicki McMillan of Mount Juliet, Tennessee; lifelong friend Jill (Scott) Hallett of Niantic, Connecticut; and friend Maury (Tracy) Littleton of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Kay was a breast cancer survivor of five years and “stepped on her rainbow” because of esophageal cancer, diagnosed in February of this year. Kay's family are indebted to Dr. Arthur Williams of Franklin; Dr. Ben Park of Vanderbilt; Alive Hospice, especially nurse Brizia Gonzales, who cared for her during her illness the past month; along with special friends, Ann Burcham of Spring Hill, Patricia Latham of Cottontown, and Mary Smith of Brentwood, Tennessee.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shelter Friends of Hickman County, P.O. Box 111, Centerville, TN 37033. Kay and Mitch McMillan will make a significant contribution to Shelter Friends to achieve its dream of constructing an animal shelter which the non-profit has been working on for seven years.

Kay's Celebration of Life service will be held on August 30 at 1:00 PM at the Church of Christ at Millview – 4370 Murfreesboro Road, Franklin, Tennessee. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

To view the memorial service remotely, please click the below link.

https://boxcast.tv/view/kay-mcmillan-memorial-w84brppv7uw3hmtnfqz8?_gl=1*z6ibfi*_gcl_au*MzE4ODU2NzM1LjE3NTQ4Mzg0NzMuODEzOTMxODQuMTc1NjlxNDgwMy4xNzU2MjE1NTEy*_ga*MTU0NDQ4MzA0Ni4xNzQzMzQ3MjA3*_ga_PXBBF7HVWQ*czE3NTYyMTQ3OTUkbzE4JGcxJHQxNzU2MjE1NTExJGoyOSRsMCRoMA

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **30**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Church of Christ at Millview
4370 Murfreesboro Rd.
Franklin, TN 37067

Tribute Wall

SS

“ We loved Kay! We called her "Lucy". She called me "Suzy". We shared so many wonderful times together...Ice skating at Riverfront Park, watching Titans games together, singing to The Eagles albums, eating crab legs often. Every time was so much fun!

We lost touch with Kay when Luke (Lowell) passed. We moved back to Wisconsin in 2009. I was so happy to see she had remarried.

She was a treasure! Rest in peace, Lucy! We loved you!

Sharon Steger - April 10 at 07:16 PM

BR

“ I first had the honor of meeting Kay while working for Best Crowd Management at Geodis Park. The moment I met Kay, you could tell even without spoken words that she lived each day to the fullest. We instantly bonded over our years we lived in Colorado, our relationship with God & love for skiing. Little did I know that Kay would become so much more than a co-worker, I consider Kay & Mitch my family. She will always be remembered for her kindness & beautiful smile.

Brittany - August 29, 2025 at 02:30 PM

TP

“ Kay was a bright spot in our work life. Working at BEST was the BEST with her. She always did a great job and always with a smile. She will be remembered in our hearts forever and we are better people for knowing her.

Torrie Parsons - August 28, 2025 at 03:40 PM

MB

“ *MICHAEL BATES sent a virtual gift in memory of Kay Odene McMillan*



MICHAEL BATES - August 25, 2025 at 09:59 AM

CF

“ *I had the privilege of being crowned a member of the Chicago girls many years ago. That's when I met Kay. I am so grateful for the times I spent with this smart, caring and beautiful soul. She always asked me how I was doing before I could ask her. She made me laugh and always put all of us in a good mood. I will always remember her smile and hugs. Be with God now sweet Kay. I know he is proud of his new angel. Love you forever my friend. Carole Ford*

Carole Ford - August 24, 2025 at 07:55 PM

BM

“ *Kay was my sister-in-law but truly became another sister to me. She was, and always will be, one of my favorite people in this world. She was very smart, very kind, very generous and had a fun spirit that was contagious. Kay & Mitch together were amazing. True love. True chemistry. Every time I hear live music, drink a glass of Pinot Grigio, hear about an animal being rescued, watch a sporting event.....I will think of Kay. Brother Brad*

Brad McMillan - August 23, 2025 at 11:42 AM

ED

“ I had the honor to work with Kay at Best security. She always had a smile on her face and always was wondering how you were doing, and if you needed anything. She put others before herself. I'm proud to call her my friend and she will be missed dearly!!!!

Eugene Devine - August 23, 2025 at 10:37 AM

JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jill Black - August 19, 2025 at 04:38 PM

LM

“ KAY WAS ONE OF THE MOST CARING, GENEROUS PEOPLE WE HAVE EVER KNOWN. SHE WAS A DEVOTED WIFE AND A WONDERFUL DAUGHTER IN LAW TO US. SHE WAS A VERY INTELLIGENT, SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS WOMAN. SHE HAD A GREAT CAREER IN COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE. SHE WAS FUN LOVING AND FUN TO BE WITH. SHE DEVELOPED FAITHFUL FRIENDSHIPS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. SHE HAD MANY PASSIONS. SHE WAS A GREAT COOK AND HOMEMAKER. SHE LOVED SPORTS. SHE WAS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT NASCAR RACING AND PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL. SHE WON OUR FAMILY FOOTBALL LEAGUE TWICE. SHE WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT ANIMALS. SHE WAS A GENEROUS SPONSOR FOR A NEW ANIMAL SHELTER IN HICKMAN COUNTY. HER HUSBAND MITCH WILL BE VERY INVOLVED IN BUILDING THE SHELTER AND CONTINUING OPERATIONS. WE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SAYING OUR LAST GOODBYES AND SHE GAVE A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY. SHE KNEW SHE WAS GOING TO A BETTER PLACE. SHE SAID SHE WOULD BE STEPPING ON THE YELLOW RAY OF THE RAINBOW. LARRY AND VICKI MCMILLAN

LARRY McMillan - August 19, 2025 at 04:36 PM

JB

“ We were always going to be “crazy old cat ladies” together. We were going to have adjoining apartments with a cat door between them.

I miss you, sister, and I will forever love you.



Jill Black - August 18, 2025 at 05:12 PM

AB

“ There is so much you can say about this precious lady. We worked together for years and started the Chicago Girls during that time. Kay was a true friend in both good times and bad. She was always there for me. We have had some wonderful times that will forever be in my memory. I'm so sad Kay is gone but I know she is at peace now. Fly high my sweet friend. Someday we will all be together again.

Ann Burcham - August 18, 2025 at 09:30 AM

BT

“ Sister Kay is about all I can say now. We had a pretty rough few years before he passing. In my limited research it seems siblings conflict is not uncommon.

With the loving support of Maury, Mac, Jill, and Dan i would like to think I'm at peace with Sister Kay.

What a Fabulous Woman!!

I love you!!!

Bart Thompson - August 15, 2025 at 08:50 PM

DO

“ Kay was a member and the backbone of "The Chicago Girls". We had so many fun times together. Trips, slumber parties, shopping sprees, all with many, many laughs. Fly high my friend. It is not goodbye but see you later. ❤️

Deborah Olds - August 14, 2025 at 09:33 PM

PL

“ Kay was my best friend for 38 years. We were always there for each other, walking through dark valleys together but always walking into the light. We worked together, sometimes on opposite sides of a conference table, we laughed together, we cried together, we celebrated together, we prayed for each other, we loved others together. So many memories, Kay, my Sister, you will never fade from my memory. I see your smile, hear your laugh, I see the twinkle in your eye which always ended up in a good time. I will love you always. ❤️

Patricia Latham - August 14, 2025 at 05:12 PM

JH

“ Kay was my first true best friend --- we met in 7th grade and grew up together. She helped me become the person I am now and even though we didn't see each other as we grew older, the connection was always there. Love to Kay and Mitch and all of Kay's family and friends. Jill

Jill Hallet - August 11, 2025 at 02:23 PM

CB

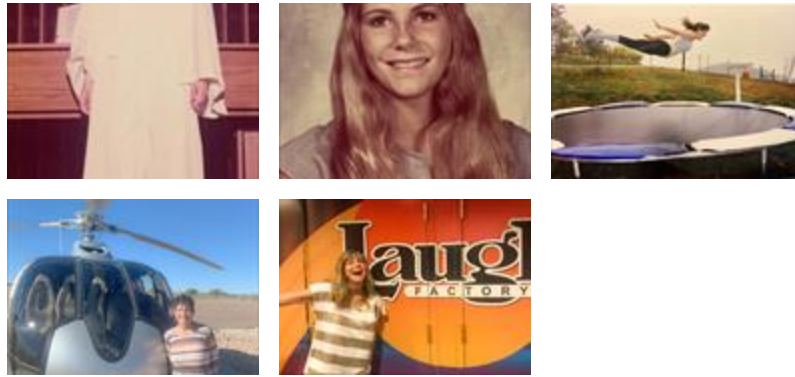
“ *CHEKEETA NEAL BEST lit a candle in memory of Kay Odene McMillan*



CHEKEETA NEAL BEST - August 10, 2025 at 09:58 PM

MM

“ *5 files added to the album Kay Memories*



Mitch McMillan - August 10, 2025 at 09:32 AM

RG

“ *Ronald Gammons lit a candle in memory of Kay McMillan*



Ronald Gammons - August 10, 2025 at 08:08 AM

MB

“ *MICHAEL BATES sent a virtual gift in memory of Kay McMillan*



MICHAEL BATES - August 09, 2025 at 02:57 PM