



## Kelly McCoy

May 21, 1963 - March 22, 2022

Well-behaved women rarely make history. That's what you'd read on the bumper sticker on the back of Kelly McCoy's silver Kia Soul if you were following her in traffic. Kelly certainly could be well-behaved, but didn't have to be and wasn't always. And she will always be a part of the history of Chattanooga.

Kelly, who was born May 21st, 1963 as Kate Echols, passed away early in the morning of March 22nd after a short illness. In the days that have followed, stories have come pouring out from all corners – radio listeners, other radio personalities past and present from her stations and others, the mayor – all of us have our own special memories of the East Ridge native who became the queen of midday radio in Chattanooga. We knew her from encounters big and small, from stage announcements in front of thousands to a quiet phone call from a listener who just wanted a sympathetic ear and to jam to Eric Clapton.

Kelly loved classic rock and saw so many shows – Clapton far and away her favorite. Her crisp, bright delivery, stories from those shows, and stories about those classic rockers from 10-2 on KZ-106 made us feel with just a few well-delivered words like we knew those artists, too. Really knew those artists. She made us part of the family.

The East Ridge Pioneers, Boyd-Buchanan Buccaneers, The Humane Educational Society, artists and entertainers, and radio listeners across all formats were her family. And you don't mess with family. Anyone who knew Kelly well was keenly aware of her finely-calibrated B.S. Meter. She could spot B.S in a nano-second, quickly react, but calmly file it away to guide her decision-making in any future dealings and make sure she protected others. Redheads have a reputation for bowing up and putting people in their place when it's necessary. Kelly was a natural redhead.

Kelly was an avid reader. Author J.K. Rowling wrote: "To the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure.

Here's to your next great adventure, Kelly. We'll carry you with us on ours.  
Always.

Kelly was preceded in death by her mother, Layne Petersen Echols. She is survived by cousins Layne Hieb of Minnesota and Marta Petersen of Utah.

Memorial contributions may be made in Kelly's name to the Humane Educational Society at <https://www.heschatt.org/donate>. Expression of sympathy may be shared at [ryanfuneralhome.net](https://ryanfuneralhome.net). A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2022 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Covey Creek Farms, 2855 Cloud Springs Road, Rossville, GA 30741.

Arrangements are entrusted to Ryan Funeral Home & Crematory, Trenton, GA.

# Previous Events

## A Celebration of Life

APR 16. 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Covey Creek Farms  
2855 Cloud Springs Road  
Rossville, GA 30741

# Tribute Wall



“ Kelly McCoy

October 09, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ Carolyn Mason Price sent a virtual gift in memory of Kelly McCoy



Carolyn Mason Price - March 30, 2022 at 12:37 PM



*I have listened to Kelly on KZ-106 for a very long time, She brought sunshine to the lives of many people. She had the voice for radio and a happy laugh that made you smile when you heard it. She will be greatly missed...Rest in Peace Kelly McCoy :)*

Carolyn Mason Price - March 30, 2022 at 12:41 PM



“ Carolyn Price lit a candle in memory of Kelly McCoy



Carolyn Price - March 30, 2022 at 12:30 PM



“ Betty Cloer lit a candle in memory of Kelly McCoy



Betty Cloer - March 30, 2022 at 10:05 AM

DM

“ Dennis Murdock lit a candle in memory of Kelly McCoy



Dennis Murdock - March 25, 2022 at 04:32 PM

SH

“ SHARON HEMING lit a candle in memory of Kelly McCoy



SHARON HEMING - March 25, 2022 at 03:30 PM

RA

“ It will be like eating lunch alone. Hope they never end the 911 noon memorial. Now it will stand for two memories. Thanks you for sharing your short life with us.

Randy - March 25, 2022 at 02:03 PM

MM

“ Michelle Morgan lit a candle in memory of Kelly McCoy



Michelle Morgan - March 25, 2022 at 01:15 PM

DM

“ Dora McKnight lit a candle in memory of Kelly McCoy



Dora McKnight - March 25, 2022 at 12:45 PM

IG

“ Irene Gruter lit a candle in memory of Kelly McCoy



Irene Gruter - March 25, 2022 at 08:56 AM

HJ

“ Another radio legend gone way to soon. Kelly you will be missed.



Helen Jackson - March 24, 2022 at 07:59 PM

PC

“ So sad to hear of Kelly's passing, I worked with her at KZ 106 she was a awesome radio personality and will be greatly missed.



Pam

pam cleckler - March 24, 2022 at 07:22 PM

RM

“ I knew Kelly first as "Katie" when I lived next door to her. She and her mother quickly became like family to my husband and I. We shared stories, cold drinks, we all loved dogs and we became very close over the years. It was so hard when her mother passed away but Katie aka Kelly was such a strong woman. She was loved by so many and will forever be in our hearts. I am heartbroken that we've lost her at such a young age. May you rest in peace my friend. Loved you much...  
Reneé Moses

Renee Moses - March 24, 2022 at 02:26 PM

TD

“ Tammy Dobbins lit a candle in memory of Kelly McCoy



Tammy Dobbins - March 24, 2022 at 11:54 AM