



Kelly Leigh Rathbun Jennings

JUL 6, 1969 - APR 24, 2023



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FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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Kelly Leigh Rathbun Jennings

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Kelly Leigh Rathbun Jennings, a life-long resident of Longview, died April 24, 2023. A memorial service is scheduled for 2:30 P.M. Friday, April 28 in the chapel of Rader Funeral Home in Longview with the Rev. Jay Jackson officiating. The family will greet friends before and following the service. An online memorial book may be signed at www.raderfh.com.

Kelly was born July 6, 1969, in Longview, the daughter of Dick Rathbun and Sue Melton. She was the granddaughter of Woody and Mary Melton and Ira and Mary Rathbun.

A graduate of the Longview High School Class of 1987, Kelly was a Viewette, active on newspaper staff and participated in the organization of the Special Olympics. At Kilgore College, Kelly was a member of the choir that performed in Carnegie Hall in New York City. She was a makeup artist for the Miss Teen USA Pageant held in Shreveport, LA. and was asked by the reigning Miss Teen USA to be her personal makeup artist for her public appearances. Kelly also was a teacher assistant with the after-school program at Trinity School of Texas and did makeup and costumes for the theatre department at TST. As a licensed aesthetician, she worked at Ulta in Frisco and Longview and as a special representative for the Benefits Company. Kelly attended Camp Waldemar and was presented as a 1988 Longfellows debutante. She loved to travel as well as volunteering with the Zonta Club and teaching Sunday School.

Kelly's jovial laugh and radiant personality will live on in those who knew her and her courage to fight a lengthy illness will be inspiration to all. Her son, Richard, was her priority in life and was always his confidante, best friend and cheerleader.

Kelly will be remembered as a caring big sister, not only to Stacy, but to all of Stacy's friends and a second mother to her niece, Kelsey. Her creative talents were not to be equaled!



Obituary

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Kelly was predeceased by her father, Dick Rathbun, and her grandparents. Those left to cherish her memory are her son, Richard Jennings; her mother, Sue Rathbun; sister, Stacy Rathbun; niece, Kelsey Rathbun; aunts, Joan Rathbun, Sally Rathbun and Sheila Rathbun and many cousins.



Tribute Wall

Kelly Leigh Rathbun Jennings

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Rader Funeral Home shared a **Webcast Video**.



April 28 at 10:16 AM



Ami McNally posted:

My Dear Friend, I had no idea. I went to message you today on Facebook messenger, and that's when I found out. I miss and love you and will forever cherish all of our good times and laughter. God bless your family and may you rest in peace. Until we meet again...Love your friend, Ami ❤️🙏

June 25 at 12:03 PM



Shannon Stevens Skelton posted:

Sue and Stacey, My heart is broken. Kelly was always my person. I loved her so much. Please know that Skelly and I will keep your family in our prayers. I will always cherish the memories I have growing up at your home. We had so much fun. Calling into KYKX requesting our favorite songs, LOBO Friday night football games, dancing, slumber parties, scavenger hunts, swim parties, choreographed dances, my bridesmaids. Just so many precious memories. Thank you for sharing Kelly with us all. She will be forever missed and loved. Shannon Stevens Skelton Ricki "Skelly" Skelton

April 28 at 3:13 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Jennings family.



April 28 at 8:12 AM



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Jennings family.



April 28 at 4:22 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Jennings family.



April 28 at 3:31 AM



Paula Bradley posted:

Sue, Stacy, Richard, and Kelsey, Kelly was strong, kind, and talented. She loved her family fiercely. I was blessed to know her and will be celebrating her on Friday.

April 27 at 10:36 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Jennings family.



April 27 at 2:46 PM



Kelly And Robert Belt sent a Small Garden Dish to the Jennings family.



April 27 at 9:57 AM



Shannon Crawford posted:

Stacy and Sue- So many great memories of Kelly hauling us around , doing our makeup, and teaching us dances. All of our love and hugs to you and your family. Kelly will be so missed Drew and Shannon Crawford

April 27 at 8:54 AM



Carrie Dorsey posted:

Sending love and prayers for comfort. She was so dear to my family and Nan loved her beyond measure.

April 27 at 6:40 AM



Tribute Wall

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Eric Martin Cope And Jason Cope sent a Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses to the Jennings family.

April 26 at 5:05 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Jennings family.

April 26 at 2:03 PM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Jennings family.

April 26 at 6:58 AM



Chesley Knowles posted:

Condolences from the Knowles family. Kelly served as my youngest daughter's Confirmation Sponsor and I had the honor to serve as Richard's sponsor. I've also been blessed to work with Sue at Community Healthcore for many, many years. ~Chesley Knowles

April 26 at 6:39 AM



Alice Poore April 27 at 6:20 AM

Sue and family I am so sorry to here about Kelly. She was so sweet and very talented. I will be keeping all of you in my prayers. BlessingsAlice Poore



Marlene Karger posted:

Thoughts and prayers are with Sue, Stacy and Richard. I met Kelly through her mother and she was always such a delight. Marlene Karger

April 26 at 5:46 AM



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BL

Brenda And Michael Liverman posted:

Sue, Stacy and Richard, Our prayers are with you during this hard time. We love to remember the fun times we had together at camp, dance recitals and other gatherings. Kelly was always such a happy and fun lady! She loved her family and was so proud of all they did. Kelly had bragging rights for sure! Know she will be deeply missed. Hugs and love to you all.

April 26 at 5:31 AM

SG

Sheila Rathbun Gerace posted:

The Mike Rathbun family sends their condolences.

April 26 at 4:57 AM

LI

Linda Thomas posted:

My prayers are with Kelly's family. Love Linda Thomas

April 25 at 3:03 PM

EC

Eric Cope lit a candle in honor of Kelly.

Sue, Stacy, Richard, and family- Jason and I want to offer our most sincere condolences during this time. We are very heartbroken for you all and words can not express the loss. Kelly and I were friends for over 26 years. I adored her and have such fond memories of her. I'll love her forever. - Eric & Jason Cope



April 25 at 2:34 PM



Media

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April 28 at 10:16 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kelly by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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