



Allison Lynn McDonald

December 10, 1961 - November 23, 2020

Allison Lynn “Lynsey” McDonald, age 58, passed away November 23, 2020 after fighting a courageous battle against multiple myeloma for more than eight years.

She leaves behind the joy of her life, her son, Gates Knight; her former husband and wonderful parenting partner, Sam Knight; her parents, Darrell and Marilyn McDonald; her beloved aunts Linda Lesley and Faye McDonald, her uncle Roger (JoAnn) Coe, numerous cousins, and a host of wonderful friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Herman and Annie Lou McDonald and Henry and Evelyn Coe, and her uncles Earl, Terry, and Robert McDonald and Harold Coe.

Lynsey grew up in Chattanooga and began playing sports at a very young age. She played competitive fast pitch softball from the age of eight to twenty for teams coached by her father. She played basketball and softball for Tyner High School. She also excelled at tennis.

After graduating from Tyner in 1980, Lynsey attended Middle Tennessee State University and received a B.S. degree in Recording Industry Management in 1984. She then moved to Nashville to begin her career in the music business.

Although blessed with a beautiful singing voice and an exceptional ear for music, Lynsey made her name on the business side of music and was best known for her work in artist management with some of Nashville's leading rock-oriented companies, such as Praxis International, Vector Management, and her own Magnolia Way Management. Along the way, she helped guide the careers of an array of talented recording artists, including Jason and the Scorchers, the Georgia Satellites, Todd Snider, Robbie Fulks, Deanna Carter, and producer Jay Joyce. In addition to working in artist management, she also worked for Rising Tide Records, Thirty Tigers, CMT, and TomKats, where she helped launch the Loveless Barn music venue and in turn helped launch the live Americana series Music City Roots, which was originally staged at the Barn.

For those wishing to make a memorial contribution, Lynsey's favorite charity was Second Harvest Food Bank, 331 Great Circle Road, Nashville, TN 37228.

There will be a Memorial Service at a later time.

The family would like to thank Dr. Berdeja and the staff at Tennessee Oncology and Alive Hospice for their excellent and compassionate care.

Tribute Wall



“ I was one of Allison's Nurses at Centennial. She was a wonderful soul and we shared so many stories of Chattanooga and Nashville. My heart holds her every day.

DAVID MOYNAN - November 24, 2025 at 11:34 AM



“ Allison Lynn McDonald

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ I am so sad to hear this. What a wonderful person! She was my big sister in Civinettes at Tyner High School. I was able to spend some time with her in Nashville many years back. What special memories I will always have of her! God bless you all during this very difficult time. 🙏 Lora Mellencamp Haddox

Lora Haddox - December 03, 2020 at 07:51 PM



“ When someone you love passes away, words are never adequate to express the loss that you feel. I was blessed to be able to call Lynsey a close friend and like all the others who were so blessed, I now have a huge hole in my heart and in my life. Her bravery during her nine-year battle against multiple myeloma was an inspiration to me and always will be. May she rest in everlasting peace.

Daryl Sanders - December 01, 2020 at 06:04 PM

HG

“ She had a heart-shaped face, framed by Raphaelite cherub curls, a smile that was the music of water and the soft brilliance of good pearls. She was always there, always willing, always helping... and she seemed to be indefatigable.

The last project we did was a few years ago: a piece on the Food Sheriff for the East Nashvillian. My plane was late; the traffic terrible -- and I'd not eaten. She not only talked my VERY dyslexic self through surface streets like a true local, but when I arrived for my talk with Jesse Goldstein, there was a spread of deliciousness to stave off the lightheadedness + headache.

And then the next week, we had the most fabulous meal at Lockeland Table talking about music, life, people we knew, Gates her son + dreams that she had, I had & how life brings certain kinds of simpatico women together to celebrate.

When she died ten days ago, I had no words. I still don't. But showing up in my memories like this, Lynsey McDonald, I can't not throw a smile to the sky + thank you for being kind to me on some of the days I encountered the ugliest this town has to offer -- and to thank you for cheer + light & joy in the ballast.

May your better angels marvel at how awesome you're making heaven, and know Laurie + Daryl are keeping your light on here on terre firme.

Holly Gleason - December 01, 2020 at 05:54 PM

DT

“ Learning of Lynsey's passing hit hard. Very saddened. She was such a bright light, always. Met her when she first began her journey in the music business which is not for the faint of heart. She seemed to navigate those murky waters with courage and finesse. The one thing that impressed me most was her love for her parents and family. What modern woman talks about that? She did. Says a whole lot. Even though I never told her, it made me wanna marry her, but every guy that crossed her path probably wanted the same. Wish I had known she was sick, but life, parenthood and distance caused us to fall out of touch. However it works, she's one of a few I'd like to see on the other side. Who knows, she's probably all around us all the time now.

Danny Tate - November 30, 2020 at 03:39 PM

TR

“ I was truly blessed to have known Lynsey during her time on Earth. She was a gift from God. I'm sending my thoughts and prayers to the family and friends at this special but sad time.

Tamberli Richardson - November 30, 2020 at 01:08 PM

GG

“ I never met this lady but her good friend Laurie George spoke highly of her.
Godspeed and RIP

Guy Goodman - November 30, 2020 at 11:39 AM

SJ

“ I don't personally know this lady but she is a friend of a friend and knowing how much Allison meant to my friend makes me wish I had the pleasure of knowing her she sounded a lovely lady to know. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Allison's family my condolences and hope you get comfort in the loving memories you will have of her.

Sue Just - November 30, 2020 at 10:07 AM

JF

“ such a great loss...i was so grateful to spend time with lynn a few years ago....we reconnectrd and did some yoga to try to get her spine moving a bit.. it was like coming full circle...I was so grateful for the opportunity and her love...i remember fondly spending time with your family in Chattanooga many years ago...Ive been thinking of you all in this very sad time...sending love and healing...Jeff Finlin

jeff finlin - November 30, 2020 at 09:47 AM

TS

“ So many wonderful memories growing up with her! I would not trade the memories of my friend for anything! I am heartbroken. Darrell and Marilyn and Gates my heart goes out to you and I will be praying for you. I love you all!

Tina Sandidge - November 29, 2020 at 07:10 PM

LP

“ Darrell and Marilyn, I am so sorry and will be praying for you and your family.

Lisa Parrish - November 29, 2020 at 06:46 AM

MB

“ *My life was enriched by Lynsey’s love and friendship. Lynsey was a trend setter and that goes from the top of her head to the tip of her toes. Perhaps the greatest quality of Lynsey to emulate was her bravery. She fought hard to live for her son Gates. Rest In Peace my darling Belle. I keep you forever in my heart.*



mary bacilieri - November 27, 2020 at 11:47 PM

LG

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



laurie george - November 25, 2020 at 05:49 PM

LG

To paraphrase Winnie the Pooh, "How lucky I am to have a friend that makes saying goodbye so hard." Lynsey was that friend. So to you, sweet Lynsey, in your own words to me a thousand times, Loving you...

laurie george - November 25, 2020 at 05:54 PM

DB

I will miss the honest laugh, quick mind, life enthusiasm and just Lyndsey herself. The fight in that lady was extraordinary. Godspeed Lynz

Dan Baird - November 25, 2020 at 06:27 PM

TM

Wow, she was such a winner, her time with TomKats family was awesome! She had so much behind the scenes success in projects like the Loveless Cafe's rebirth, building momentum in Music City Roots and just her can-do spirit lifted us all. We had so many projects that her finger prints were all over and gosh did we laugh and have fun. Watch over us Lynsey, we love you!

thomas morales - November 25, 2020 at 06:56 PM


Leslie
Turner

Such a beautiful person. Inspiring so many along her way.

Leslie Turner - November 25, 2020 at 10:50 PM

LS

Lyndsey was a spark - funny, smart and such a loving spirit. Beautiful inside and out. She's been through so much and fought so hard. The world will not be the same without her smile and her passion for life. Love to her cherished son Gates and family. Lisa Shively

Lisa Shively - November 26, 2020 at 08:32 AM

MB

Lynsey and Julip what a pair. They even looked alike! Thanks for this pic Laurie

Mary Bacilieri - November 27, 2020 at 11:28 PM

SB

So sorry, Marilyn and Darryl.

Shirley Blevins - November 29, 2020 at 07:40 AM

CA

I only met her once and she had been doing a favor for a friend. She was smiling and happy. What a beautiful and kind person.

Cheryle Aguzzi - December 01, 2020 at 05:54 AM

TW

Sweet Lynsey. In my mind's eye I will always see her with a bright smile and those bouncy curls that she rocked so beautifully. She was effervescent and in the years that I was blessed to work with her and call her friend, she shared my confidences and lifted me up more than once. Though it's sad that she isn't here in body any longer, I KNOW that her consciousness, her infinite spirit, endures and is still with us, vibrant and beautiful as ever. Love to her family.

Tina Wright - December 03, 2020 at 12:22 AM