



## Deneen "Kay" Merrell

September 3, 1964 - January 5, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Deneen "Kay" Merrell, who left us on January 5, 2026. Born on September 3, 1964, in Lubbock, Texas, Kay was raised by her loving grandparents, Alvin and Murlene Gaines in Friona. She graduated from Friona High School in 1983 and married her "Endless Love", David Merrell, on June 19, 1982. Together, they built a beautiful life filled with love and laughter.

Kay dedicated most of her career to being a Certified Nursing Assistant, serving the communities of Friona, Huntsville, and Amarillo. Her life was defined by her immense kindness and dedication to others. Known for her sweet and thoughtful nature, she was a generous soul who touched the lives of everyone around her.

In her spare time, Kay found joy in caring for animals, writing letters to family, having long conversations on the phone, crocheting, and bird watching. She also enjoyed collecting jewelry and had a particular fondness for watching Westerns. Kay's greatest joy, though, came from her family, especially being a proud Meemaw to her grandchildren, a role she cherished deeply.

She is survived by her husband, David Merrell of Amarillo; sons, Dwight Merrell and wife Brittany of Amarillo and Andrew Merrell of Amarillo; father, Doug Gaines and wife Sally of Amarillo; siblings, Rob Gaines of Round Rock,

Wendy Walker of Austin, Dean Savidge and wife Brandy of Las Vegas, NV, Michael Gaines of Amarillo, Joe Gaines of Fort Worth and Wally Torres of Fort Worth as well as 7 grandchildren.

Kay was preceded in death by her mother, Jeaneen Lopez and sister, Donna Gaines.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 13. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Shafer Mortuary Services Funeral Home  
1502 South Cleveland Street  
Amarillo, TX 79102

# Tribute Wall

BE

“ Sorry to hear of her passing and her families loss. She was always such a nice classmate. The world needs of her kindness!

brian edelmon - February 02 at 09:29 PM

MM

“ Mark Montoya lit a candle in memory of Deneen "Kay" Merrell



Mark Montoya - January 29 at 10:39 AM

JH

“ John and Betty Haggerty purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Deneen "Kay" Merrell.



John and Betty Haggerty - January 13 at 11:56 AM

DL

“ Dawn Loomis purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Deneen "Kay" Merrell.



Dawn Loomis - January 12 at 01:02 PM

DS

“ Dean & Brandy Savidge purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Deneen "Kay" Merrell.



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Dean & Brandy Savidge - January 10 at 08:14 PM

DS

“ Dean & Brandy Savidge planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deneen "Kay" Merrell.

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Dean & Brandy Savidge - January 10 at 08:14 PM

WA

“ I remember when mom and Kay use too talk on the phone all the time and when mom passed away it was good to see my sister there at the funeral.I will always love you sis

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wallytorres - January 10 at 05:03 PM

JG

“ So one time we were coming up there to visit. I told her to get the BBQ ready. Lol. I ment the one you cook outside. When we got there she was making BBQ from a roast. Lol.

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Joe Gaines - January 09 at 07:54 PM

JG

“ Joe Gaines lit a candle in memory of Deneen "Kay" Merrell



Joe Gaines - January 09 at 07:51 PM



“ Sandy Mayhue lit a candle in memory of Deneen "Kay" Merrell



Sandy Mayhue - January 09 at 06:49 PM

SG

“ Susan Glenn lit a candle in memory of Deneen "Kay" Merrell



Susan Glenn - January 09 at 02:42 AM

SG

*I met Kay a few years back in a facility. She and I have been friends. She was always trying to help me out. She had her huge heart. I will never forget you Kay. God puts people in your life for a purpose and I am grateful for having her in my life.*

Susan Glenn - January 09 at 02:46 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deneen "Kay" Merrell.



January 08 at 07:19 PM



“ Steve & Terry Kile planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deneen "Kay" Merrell.

Steve & Terry Kile - January 08 at 07:19 PM



“ Barbara purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Deneen "Kay" Merrell.



Barbara - January 08 at 04:33 PM



“ Barbara planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deneen "Kay" Merrell.

Barbara - January 08 at 04:33 PM