



## Gordon D. McCollum

July 24, 1946 - May 20, 2024

Gordon D. "Gordy" McCollum, 77, of Kankakee, passed away Monday, May 20, 2024, at Ascension St. Mary's Hospital, Kankakee.

He was born July 24, 1946, in Brookfield, MO the son of Oral and Blanche (Yocom) McCollum. When he was just 4 years old, his family moved to Silvis, Illinois. On March 19, 1977, he married Donna Hildebrand of Bettendorf, Iowa at Zion Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa.

Gordon was in the broadcast business for over 40 years, including traffic manager at KRVR Radio Station, Davenport, Iowa, where he met his future wife. He was the Station Manager at Joy FM 98 in Menomonee Falls, WI as well as WKAN and WVLI in the Kankakee area. He was involved with KVT and was MC for the Kankakee Valley Symphony 4th of July concerts at KCC for many years.

He enjoyed Bob and Ray comedy team recordings, traveling, Texas Hold'em poker, reading, jazz music, live theatre, good food, martinis, and watching sports of all kinds on tv. Most of all, he loved a good laugh and spending time with his family and friends.

Gordy is survived by his beloved wife of 47 years, Donna McCollum of Kankakee; several cousins, including, Clark King of The Villages, FL and

Albert Yocom of Maryville, MO; several close friends, including David Carmark of Moline, Jon Anderson of Leesburg, FL, Steve Horst of Hampton, and Ben Coppage of Kankakee; as well as his godson, Elisha Benjamin of Hoover, AL.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Oral McCollum in 1985 and Blanche McCollum in 2005.

Vitiation will be held Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at Jensen Funeral Home, Kankakee from 4 p.m. until the funeral service at 7 p.m. with Pastor Lana Robyne officiating. Burial will take place Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 1p.m. at Davenport Memorial Park, Davenport, Iowa.

Memorials may be made to Kankakee County Humane Foundation, Kankakee Valley Theatre Association, or the Broadcast Museum, Chicago.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 28. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home  
3639 EAST State Route 17  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
jensenfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

## Funeral Service

MAY 28. 7:00 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home  
3639 EAST State Route 17  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
jensenfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Dear Donna, I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved husband. Gordy and I were good friends in our youth as we lived two houses from each other. We spent many hours listening to theatrical music and playing basketball with Ray Krack and Steve Mindham in Gordy's backyard. The basket was mounted on the back wall of the garage that had brittle shingles. Every time the ball hit the wall, shingles shattered. His parents were very tolerant. We listened to *The Fantastiks* and Scott Lyons introduced us to *West Side Story*. We actually tried to emulate the Sharks and the Jets by dancing in the middle of 19th Avenue on warm summer nights. We were so weird! Once, we took his mother's burgundy Ford out to the farm areas to look for new camping spots. The car got stuck in mud up to the hubcaps and we had to pay a farmer \$10 to pull us out with his tractor. We went to the carwash and tried to clean it up as much as possible but Blanche was very suspicious! The truth came out somehow. Gordy had a wonderful sense of humor as you well know and kept us laughing. His golden voice made him a star on the radio and in theatrical productions. I was grateful that we connected on FB and were able to meet for dinner in Chicago some years back. We should have done it more. I trust that your pain will ease somewhat with good memories of your life together in the not-too-distant future. He brought joy to so many people. What a gift he was to us! Please accept my deepest sympathy.  
Regards, John Myers

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**John Myers** - June 14, 2024 at 04:49 PM

BS

“ Beth S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gordon D. McCollum.

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**Beth S.** - June 02, 2024 at 01:20 PM

BN

“ Dear Donna, I remember Gordy as a truly a talented classmate. I picture him in a top hat and cane in one or more of our high school productions. I thought it was perfect that he continued in entertainment and plays. He was just meant to be on stage. With warmest condolences to you and your family. Sincerely Beth Neumann-Sterten

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**Beth Neumann-Sterten** - June 02, 2024 at 01:19 PM

MB

“ Donna- Mike & I extend our sympathies to you & your families at this difficult time. Mike was in so many KVT plays with Gordie over the years & I was just along for the ride but it was a good ride, knowing Gordie & you.  
Mike & Mary Birr

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**Mary & Mike Birr** - May 28, 2024 at 08:23 PM

JP

Donna  
I'm so sorry for your loss Hugs  
I used to work at Radiator Unlimited  
John Papineau

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**john p papineau** - May 31, 2024 at 10:29 PM

JC

“ Julia and Ken Caffarella planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gordon D. McCollum.

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**Julia and Ken Caffarella** - May 27, 2024 at 03:45 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gordon D. McCollum.*



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May 27, 2024 at 03:45 PM



“ *I first met Gordy in February of 1978. He started working at WKAN one week after I started.*

*My voice was rarely heard on the air as I was the Chief Engineer. However Gordy and I worked closely together and were very good friends.*

*Working for WKAN & WVLI was special. The owners and management were strong believers in traditional broadcast radio and community involvement. It was like being a member of another family.*

*Condolences to Donna who was a common presence around the station.*

*Rest well Gordy. Your friends and fellow broadcasters won't forget you!*

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**Don Kerouac** - May 25, 2024 at 10:41 AM



“ *Hello Donna. I was certainly sorry to get the call from my brother about Gordy's passing! It's never easy losing a loved one, especially one that could make us laugh at any given time, but we know he's in a much better place now! Our thoughts and prayers will be with you during this most difficult time. With our love, Gail & Jamie Horst*

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**Jamie Horst** - May 23, 2024 at 07:52 AM

NJ

“ Donna, Sending sympathy to you and your friends. Great radio person and his personality lit the room. prayers for you. Nancy Johnson from Presence and Cigna.

Nancy Johnson - May 23, 2024 at 12:04 AM

DW

“ Dear Donna,  
I've known you practically our whole lives. Words can't express my sympathies.  
Extending our sincere sympathy and condolences at this time of your loss.  
Respectfully, Deb

Deb W. - May 22, 2024 at 10:09 AM

TM

“ Tom Mallaney lit a candle in memory of Gordon D. McCollum



Tom Mallaney - May 21, 2024 at 08:02 PM

BC

“ There are so many memories that Ben and I have that we are unable to pick just one but the last time we played Texas Holden Gordy won and he was still happy Gordy we will miss you so much Poker will never be the same

Ben and Sue Can - May 21, 2024 at 07:19 PM

TS

“ The King Family Clark and Sharon purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Gordon D. McCollum.



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**The King Family Clark and Sharon** - May 21, 2024 at 05:28 PM

NC

“ Nick Coppage planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gordon D. McCollum.

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**Nick Coppage** - May 21, 2024 at 03:59 PM

NC

“ Nick Coppage purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Gordon D. McCollum.



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**Nick Coppage** - May 21, 2024 at 03:59 PM