



Lon Helton's 47-year industry career began in 1971 as a disc jockey in Monmouth, IL. On-air and program management opportunities took him to Galesburg, IL, Denver, Chicago and Los Angeles. He joined the radio and music industry trade publication Radio & Records as Country Editor in 1983 and became Nashville Bureau Chief in 1986. When Billboard Magazine bought R&R in 2006, Helton launched the Country radio and music industry trade publication, **Country Aircheck**, where he continues as CEO/Publisher.

Helton has also hosted a variety of nationally syndicated Country radio shows since 1984, including *Country Close-up*, *Nashville Live*, *Country Star Traks* and *Listen In*. For the last 26 years he has hosted Westwood One's *Country Countdown USA* and *Country's Inside Trak*, while also hosting Country specials for a variety of syndicators.

Lon has been married to Anne for 46 years. They have two children, Amanda and Brad.

The Country Music Association has honored **Lon Helton** as its National Broadcast Personality of the Year an unequalled eight times -- 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. He has won the ACM National Broadcast Personality of the Year award four times -- 2009, 2012, 2014 and 2016. He was inducted into the Country Music DJ Hall of Fame in 2006.

In 2014 Lon received the Founders Award from Country Cares For St. Jude's Kids in recognition of his role in the creation of Country Cares in 1989.

Monmouth College presented Lon with its Distinguished Alumni award in 2010 and in 2017 inducted him into the institution's Hall of Achievement, the highest honor bestowed on graduates of his alma mater.

Helton has served on the Country Music Association Board of Directors for the past 35 years and led the organization as President in 1999 and Board Chairman from 2000-2002. He has been on the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum Board for 17 years. Lon previously served on the Country Music Retirement Community Board for 12 years, the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Country Radio Advisory Council for 25 years and the Academy of Country Music Board of Directors for six years. He also serves on the Board of the National Corvette Museum, where he currently is Chairman of the Board.