



Lon Helton's 49-year industry career began as a disc jockey in Monmouth, IL following graduation from Monmouth College. On-air and program management posts took him to Galesburg, IL, Denver, Chicago and Los Angeles, including stints at WMAQ and WJJD in Chicago and KHJ and KLAC in 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**.

Helton has hosted Westwood One's *Country Countdown USA* since it's inception in 1992. He's also hosted a variety of nationally syndicated Country radio shows since 1984, including the current *Country's Inside Trak*, plus *Country Close-up*, *Nashville Live*, *Country Star Traks*, *Listen In* and more than 100 world premieres of new albums by country artists.

Helton has served on the Country Music Association Board of Directors for the past 35 years and led the organization as President and Chairman from 1999-2002. He is also a 19-year member of the board of the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum. Along with *Alabama* band front man Randy Owen, Helton is one of the founders of *Country Cares For St. Jude Kids*, which has raised almost \$1 billion for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis over the last 31 years. Prior non-profit board involvement includes 25 years on the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Country Radio Advisory Council and 12 years on the Country Music Retirement Community Board. He has been on the National Corvette Museum Board of Directors for seven years, serving as Chairman of the Board in 2018 and 2019.

Lon has been married to Anne for 48 years. They have two children, Amanda and Brad.

A 2006 inductee into the Country Radio Hall of Fame, Lon Helton has been honored as the Country Music Association's National Broadcast Personality of the Year an unequalled nine times – 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018. He has been named the Academy of Country Music's National Broadcast Personality of the Year an unprecedented five times -- 2009, 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2019.

In 2019, Helton became only the sixth recipient of the *Bob Kingsley Living Legend Award*. In 2020, he was presented with the Country Radio Broadcasters' *Tom Rivers Humanitarian Award*. At the event commemorating the 25th anniversary of *Country Cares For St. Jude Kids* in 2014, Helton received the *Country Cares Founders Award* from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He was awarded the "Best Nationally Syndicated Show" by the March of Dimes with its AIR Award in 2002.

Other honors include the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012 and induction into the Hall Of Achievement in 2017 by his Alma Mater, Monmouth College. For his 35 years of exemplary service to the CMA Board of Directors, Helton became only the second recipient of the J. William Denny Award in 2019.