Julie Marie Gummersheimer, 45, of Waterloo passed away Friday November 5, 2010 at St. Anthony’s as a result of pneumonia and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome. She was born June 29, 1965, in St. Louis, the third daughter of Jean and Carl Upchurch. She is survived by daughters Christina Coleman, Kaitlyn and Carly Gummersheimer, and their father Merl Gummersheimer, sisters, Jill (John) Lively, Joy (Michael) Wellman, and Carla (Chris) Cobb, sisters-in-law Gail (Tim) Fredrick and Jana (Jeff) Deutch, numerous nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, her beloved canine friend Benjamin Chase of New Hanover and grand-dog Piper Juliet and other special friends too many to mention. She was the Godmother to Jason Buatte and Isaiah Starr.

She was preceded by her parents Carl Upchurch (January 3, 2003) and Jean Upchurch, (October 4, 2008), her paternal grandparents James and Eunice Upchurch, and maternal grandmother Artinca Haman.

Julie graduated from Columbia High School in 1983 and Sanford Brown School of Nursing, receiving her LPN. Her career included working for several local doctors, most recently at St. Anthony’s Medical Center, as well as serving as Monroe County Coroner since 1996, where she was known for her compassion, discretion and professionalism. Her legacy was dedicating her life to helping others, both professionally and personally.

Julie was passionate about life, especially being outdoors with her family and friends. She loved nothing more than the wind in her hair on a boat, on the beach, or while floating on the river. She was also active walking, hiking; bicycling and most recently could be spotted on roller skates preparing for the roller derby.

But most importantly, “She was the mother of three wonderful daughters that she loved to spend time with. She could be a very serious person when needed, but watch, out she loved to have FUN!” Julie mastered the art of fun in most circumstances and her infectious giggle often turned into a wheeze. She will be sadly missed but never forgotten.

A Memorial/Celebration of Life Service and Open House will be held Sunday, November 14, 2010, at The Falls Reception and Conference Center, 300 Admiral Weinel Boulevard, Columbia from 4:00-7:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her name to Associated Bank; 238 North Main Street; Columbia, IL 62236