



Denise Graf

November 24, 1959 - April 1, 2026

Denise J. Graf, 66, of Wilmington passed away Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at Riverside medical Center in Kankakee. She was born November 24, 1959 to Charles “Chuck” and Nancy (Whitman) Thompson in Kankakee.

Family was the center of her world, rooted in a deep pride for her family history and traditions she held dear. She treasured the times surrounded by the people she loved, especially during the quiet, cherished moments she shared with Lynn on their yard swing, watching sports or old classic TV shows when he returned from the road. “Niecey” or “Dede” was a rare authentic soul- she never pretended to be anyone but herself. She was known for her enormous heart and spirit that knew no strangers; possessing a gift for making everyone feel like a member of her own family. We take comfort in knowing she is once again hanging out with her beloved dog, Humphrey, who preceded her in death. Outside of her family she also enjoyed puzzles, sudoku, arts and crafts, and cooking traditional family recipes.

She is survived by her life partner, Lynn Goodwin of Wilmington; his sons Keith (Morgan) and Carl, both of Kansas; her brothers, Michael “mike” Thompson of Bradley and Gary (Jan) Thompson of Arizona; and her sisters, Julie Thompson of California and Jennifer (Craig) Books of Tennessee. She is also survived by two uncles. Don Thompson of Mahomet and Terry Thompson of Bradley; one aunt, Sally Hood of Kankakee; and several nieces, nephews,

cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents ;her brother, Brian; stepmom Teresa “Terri” (Ikeler) Thompson; uncles, Larry Thompson George Hood; and aunts Bonnie, Kathie, and Margaret Thompson, as well as her beloved dog, Humphrey.

Tribute Wall

DH

“ *Debbie Hornung lit a candle in memory of Denise Graf*



Debbie Hornung - April 08 at 08:37 PM

DH

I will miss you!!! Memories of all the good times we had at work & our good times together

Debbie Hornung - April 08 at 08:39 PM

DM

I just found out that you passed. From your childhood friend. Deanna McCue (Benjamin).

Deanna McCue - April 30 at 08:08 AM

DM

Wish we could of kept in touch.

Deanna McCue - April 30 at 08:09 AM

KT

“ *So very sorry to hear. Not good-bye, just see you later. You will be missed. ☐*



Kim Thompson - April 08 at 10:47 AM

LS

“ *Denise was always the sweetest! I am so sad that we can no longer have our chats on the phone or in person at the BP
Fly high my friend!*

Lisa Silva - April 08 at 10:42 AM

TM

“ *Tom Mallaney lit a candle in memory of
Denise Graf*



Tom Mallaney - April 08 at 08:05 AM

MS

“ *Monte Schweizer lit a candle in memory of
Denise Graf*



Monte Schweizer - April 07 at 07:07 PM

MS

Donna and I want to reach out to Everyone and give Our Deepest Condolences! I have had the Privilege of knowing this Beautiful Friend my whole life! We All have lost a Great Friend and an even better person! RIP Sweetie! Heaven gained a Great Angel!

Monte Schweizer - April 07 at 07:11 PM