

Paulette S. Tortorice Mattson

October 21, 1943

May 29, 2016 (72)

Rockford, IL



After a long, difficult battle with cancer, **Paulette S. Tortorice Mattson**, 72, of Rockford, passed away Sunday May 29, 2016 at 7:20 a.m. She was born in Rockford on October 21, 1943 to Anthony P. and Martha (Danielson) Tortorice.

Paulette was a life-long auto parts guru at Eleventh Street Auto, Whitlock Auto Supply, AutoZone and others. She had a passion for animals; she co-founded Forest City Dog Training and worked for Animal Control. Sometimes she paid a price for her advocacy - like when she was arrested for breaking and entering to save an endangered dog. Paulette's other passions

included: staging dollhouses, collecting Coca-Cola memorabilia and other antiques, watching da' Bears, *Cops*, and *Judge Judy*, dancing, listening to music, traveling in the motorhome, spending time with family at the lake, or digging around in sand or soil looking for seashells and arrowheads and other random treasures.

Paulette is predeceased by her parents, her son Michael, her "Jimmy" James Watson, and her dearest friend, Julie Moon. Paulette left an indelible impression on everyone she met. She loved fiercely, fought bravely, and passed peacefully surrounded by her family. She will be dearly missed. Survivors include her sons, Jeffrey Mattson of Machesney Park and Gregg (Andrea) Mattson of Rockford; her grandsons Brandon and Andrew Mattson; her granddaughters Kyrah and Maren Mattson; her sisters Sylvia Mattson of Rockford and Carol (Rod) Lawlor of Wisconsin; her brother Martin Tortorice of Florida; many cousins, nieces, nephews, and other extended family members; and life-long friends Sandy Giger, Mary Leatherby, and Lana Alcock.

The family is grateful to Dr. Mardini for not giving up on his "one in a million," to Transitions Hospice for their care in her final days, to Judy for infinite hours of anything and everything, and to Sherry for the overnight vigil. "We could not have done it without each of you."

A Family and Friends Gathering is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. at Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services, 7000 West State Street, Rockford. Please leave memorials for the family to distribute in Paulette's name to the charities she supported.

Reference:

[Paulette Mattson Obituary - Advantage Funeral and Cremation Services | Rockford IL \(dignitymemorial.com\)](http://dignitymemorial.com)