

November 15, 2011

Donna Ann Gibbons

The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE — Donna Ann Gibbons, 51, of Terre Haute, passed away unexpectedly Saturday evening, Nov. 12, 2011, at Indiana University Hospital in Indianapolis. She was born Oct. 7, 1960, in Clinton, the daughter of Rose Ann (Farrington) and Donald C. Gibbons. Donna attended Terre Haute North Vigo High School and Indiana State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in sports science (1983) and a Master of Science in sports administration (1984).



Most recently Donna owned and operated Cucina Maria, a local Italian restaurant specializing in her Grandma Mary (Natale) Farrington's sweet northern Italian meat sauce. Donna's long work career also included 13 years as customer service manager at Columbia House (1991-2004), manager and corporate recruiter for Lady Foot Locker based in Fort Wayne (1988-1991), executive director of Wabash Community Services in Wabash (1985-1988), and program director for the Vigo County Extension Agency, in Terre Haute (1982-1984).

Donna is survived by her mother, Rose Ann Toulson and Alan Siegel of Terre Haute; her father, Donnie Gibbons and his wife Sharon of Terre Haute; her sister, Whitney and husband Matthew Messens of Orange, Calif.; her niece and nephew, Sydney Sanders and Grant Messens; as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, and many, many friends. She was preceded in death by her brother, Ryan Toulson in July, 1992; and her stepfather, Paul Toulson in December 2000.

Donna's love of animals, particularly dogs, was a large part of her life. Her current companions were Hillary, a toy poodle, and Frazier, a Yorkshire terrier, whom Hillary periodically terrorized when Donna's back was turned. One of the highlights of her restaurant career was hosting Ted Danson for Sunday brunch at her restaurant during the Hillary Clinton campaign for president.

Donna will be laid to rest next to her brother and stepfather in Roselawn Memorial Park, after a private family service on Wednesday. Her family and friends will celebrate Donna's life later in the day. Mattox-Wood Funeral Home and Crematory was entrusted with the arrangements.

To acknowledge and honor Donna's devotion to her furry friends, the family is suggesting donations to the Terre Haute Humane Society in lieu of flowers. Donations may be mailed to them at PO Box 3307, Terre Haute, IN, 47803; or by using the DONATE button at the bottom of their website; www.thhs.org.