Judi Strand was born July 4, 1949, in Grinnell, Iowa. She graduated from Grinnell High School as Valedictorian in 1967 before heading to the University of Northern Iowa. Judi transferred to Towson State University for her senior year and married Vince Crawford in 1971. Together they moved around the country, living in Iowa, Illinois, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, New York, Michigan, and Missouri, before spending two decades in South Dakota and Minnesota. In addition to nurturing the lives of two daughters, Rina and Laurel, Judi enjoyed her job pursuits in French, education, and editorial work, as well as extensive school and community volunteer service. The family came to enjoy downhill skiing, biking, camping, and the music of jambands. A dedicated runner her entire life, Judi completed the Twin Cities Marathon three times, the last at the age of sixty. Following her diagnosis with a rare and aggressive form of leukemia in 2010, Judi became the central figure of a group known as Team Ma Craw, and throughout her courageous fight through chemotherapy, a stem cell transplant, and extended hospitalization at Mayo, she was an inspiration to thousands of people around the world. Her family was with her when she said goodbye to this physical life on May 26, 2012. She lives on in the sunshine, wind, and clouds, and in the hearts of all who knew her. Memorials may be sent to BeTheMatch.org.

There will be a memorial service for Judi Strand Crawford, 62, on Friday, July 6, at 2 p.m. at Saints Rest. She was born July 4, 1949, in Grinnell, and died May 26, 2012. An obituary appeared in the June 14, 2012, edition of The Grinnell Herald-Register.