



## Mary Elizabeth Behrent

January 25, 1944 - July 8, 2012

Mary Elizabeth Behrent née Schumacher passed away in Hudson on Sunday, July 8.

She was born in Austin, Texas on January 25, 1944 to Grace and Woodrow Schumacher, while her father was serving in the Pacific. She graduated from McCallum High School in 1962 and attended the University of Texas. In the summer

of 1966, she met her future husband. In 1974, Mary Beth moved with her young

family to London, England. In 1977, they settled in Paris, France, where she raised her children and lived for 26 years. Like many Americans, she fell in love with Paris, and expressed her passion in tireless volunteer work promoting

Franco-American relations: she served as president of the American Women's Group, worked for the Association of American Residents Overseas, and was a

committed Democrat Abroad. The French returned her love: in 1983, the city of

Paris recognized her service by awarding her its silver medal. Mary Beth was always admired for her beauty and style. She was an astute student of French dress, a skill she shared by founding a business that offered Americans shopping

tours of Paris' best-kept fashion secrets. Yet of all her passions, none was as

great or important to her as family. She returned to Texas in 2003 to help care for her mother and in 2007, to be near her children and grandchildren, she moved

to Hudson, where she also worked as a realtor. Her humor, curiosity, spiritual yearning, freedom of spirit, and zest for living deeply marked all who knew her,

and none more than her children. She is survived by her two sons and a daughter:

Michael Behrent and wife Catherine Cole of Boone, NC, Matthew Behrent and wife

Antonia Sherman of Brooklyn, NY, and Megan Behrent, also of Brooklyn; two grandchildren, Henrik and Lucy Behrent; and a sister, Sharon Williams and husband Don, of Shady Shores, Texas. A memorial service will be held in Hudson,

New York, on August 11, 2011. Donations can be made in her name to the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research at [stopsarcoidosis.org](http://stopsarcoidosis.org).