



## Maria Asuncion Atassi nee´ Balda Murugarren

November 12, 2022

Maria Asuncion Atassi nee´ Balda Murugarren passed away in Bradenton, Florida on November 12, 2022. She is survived by her husband, Michael, her son and his wife, Oliver and Ana, three grandchildren, Daniel, Maria and Oliver and two sisters Dolores and Victoria.

Maria was born in a white stone house in Oiz de Santesteban, a charming picturesque village in the Pyrenees hills of Navarre, Spain bordering France. From those pastoral beginnings, she went to study and work in Spain, France and the United States and impressively became fluent in the languages of all three countries. She met her future husband, Michael, while studying in Paris and after four years got married at Saint Sulpice in Paris. After a few years in Paris and Oxford, the Atassis settled in the United States first at Cornell University and then at the University of Notre Dame. Their son, Oliver, was born in South Bend, Indiana. She continued her studies in art and education and taught French and Spanish at the local high schools.

Her marriage to Michael was a joyful and adventurous one as they travelled extensively through Europe, North and South America and Asia. They retired in Longboat Key, Florida. Along her travels, Maria developed a great passion for painting and sculpture. This was an art that she would commit herself to for the rest of her life.

Maria will be remembered for the beautiful paintings and sculptures she created and her talent for cooking a wide array of French, Spanish and Middle Eastern dishes. With her effervescent, generous, and kind personality she had an international circle of friends.

Maria was greatly loved as a mother, grandmother and sister. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.