



4-1-1998

# Commentary

Clarence Bell

*Senator, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

I am so sorry about the sad news. Mark was a magnificent friend from the time Bob (Robert E. Davies) was asked to be a part of the School of Veterinary Medicine until the time Bob died. He was a splendid Dean and great man.

Dr. Helen C. Davies  
*Professor of Microbiology  
School of Medicine*

He's the architect who led Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine to its concept today of service, not only to small and large animals, but also to the people of Pennsylvania.

Clarence Bell  
*Senator, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*



*Dr. Allam and Miss Caroline Moran, 1997.*

## *Mark and Lila*

I came to the School a few years after Mark had retired as dean, but I had the privilege of working with him on a number of important initiatives in Harrisburg and elsewhere and being with him and Lila at numerous social functions. He was always nice to me and went out of his way to say positive things about me. I was taken with his optimism, wit, courage, his captivating smile and his complete devotion and love for the Veterinary School. A donor once told me that it was impossible to say no to Mark when he asked for money for the Veterinary School and when he came to visit she automatically took out her checkbook. Bob Marshak taught me that it is easy to be nice when things are going well, but that you measure a person by how they react when the situation is difficult. I have to believe that at least to some extent Bob developed that philosophy from the courageous actions of Mark. If what I heard is correct, Mark risked his position as dean by making the commitment to purchase NBC without the permission of the University because he knew it was the right thing to do for the Veterinary School. In recent years he took great pride in the successes of his

School and particularly the successes of its faculty. The night Ralph Brinster received the Bower Award at the Franklin Institute, Mark was at least as happy and proud as Ralph was. That is the sign of being a real mentor.

My wife and I were with the Allams at many social occasions and my wife believed that she and Lila had a special relationship. That was the beauty of Lila because almost everyone felt that way about her. She was constantly asking about our children's progress and well-being. She was gracious and very protective of Mark's welfare. A few years ago I had occasion to sit next to Lila at a small dinner party at the Allam House. In her own subtle way, she let me know that she was unhappy that Mark was spending more time on School activities recently and commented, "Couldn't he retire like everyone else"? I've always felt a little badly about that because a year or so before we had asked for Mark for his assistance working with us in Harrisburg and elsewhere to improve the School's financial situation. Frankly, I didn't have the courage to tell Lila that I was partially responsible for his increased activities on behalf of the School and I really believe

that Mark was never happier than when working for the betterment of the School he loved so much. To a great extent, the Veterinary School is what it is today because of his actions, his vision and great style.

Barry Stupine  
*Associate Dean for Finance and Planning  
Director, VHUP*

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, and also personally, I am sending our condolences on the death of former Dean Mark Allam. By every measure, Dean Allam was an extraordinary person and a great dean. We will all miss him.

My own memories of Dean Allam are of a wonderful mentor and an exceptional leader. His guidance played an important role in my education and contributed significantly to my own personal growth. I am saddened to learn of his passing.

Donald F. Smith  
*Dean*