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Commentary

Irene S. Landan
Chairperson, Allam House Committee



*Dr. Allam watches youngsters assist in surgery on their toy animals in the School's M*A*S*H tent at the 1997 American Gold Cup.*

For the past six years I've had the pleasure of chairing the Allam House Committee. Working in this capacity has been like being a part of a couple's dream. Though Mark always addressed me at the meetings as "Madam Chair," I knew that the dream was really his and Lila's and that all of the committee should feel honored to participate in the fulfillment of their dream.

Prior to meetings, sometimes Mark and I would have lengthy phone conversations as to what needed to be discussed and the decisions that needed to be made. As the meeting progressed, in his normal grace and style, he would participate in the discussions, and once a decision was reached he would be the

positive force that would find a way to get things accomplished correctly, without cutting corners. His passion for Allam House, the School and the University were reflected in virtually everything both he and Lila said and did.

Lila would sit at the meetings, her quiet presence and supporting smile communicating approval of discussions. Every once in a great while you might catch her with a frown, which would immediately make you stop and rethink the direction the discussions were going. Her quiet, unassuming presence and thoughtful analysis always helped bring us back on track when we would stray. When it came to choosing fabrics and furniture

for the house, Lila's attention to detail was uncompromising, making each and every room a tribute to her style. On occasional weekends it would not be unusual to find Lila in the perennial garden weeding and making everything look beautiful.

Hopefully Allam House will always be a symbol of the love and devotion these two people had for each other, the University, the School and, of course, the house itself.

Irene S. Landan
Chairperson Allam House Committee