

# Dr. Blaine Purcell, Man for All Seasons



**D**VM, JD, MD—veterinarian, attorney, physician—three admirable careers, all encompassed in the remarkable life of Blaine Purcell. To that list add yet another distinction: Mannatech Associate. It can be said with no exaggeration that Dr. Blaine Purcell has accomplished enough in his amazing career to have filled several lifetimes.

Growing up as the son of a U.S. Representative from Texas, the legendary Graham Purcell, Dr. Purcell was in Washington, D.C., from 1962 to 1972, close to the seat of power during some of the most eventful years and important moments in American history. In high school, he was a congressional page, and his family lived with then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson's family when the Purcells first came to Washington.

No doubt his family's tradition of public service played a big role in Dr. Purcell's career of helping others. Realizing an ambition he had since he was six years old, Dr. Purcell began his professional life as a veterinarian after graduating from Texas A&M University. A stint in the Green Berets sent him to South and Central America to assist in the establishment of civil affairs in various countries, where as he recalls, "Every day held high adventure and every meal was *not* a banquet!"

It was while working with the indigenous people and witnessing a great deal of misery that he considered a career in international law. But he quickly discovered that such a career would not allow him to make the kind of difference he wanted to make, because he would not be able to work one-on-one with people. Instead, after

graduating from law school, he went to Washington to work with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, where he was "going to be a bureaucrat and write regulations."

From there he became a legislative assistant to Congressman Kent Hance and later a lobbyist for alternative energy sources. When a change in administration brought an end to virtually all such programs, Dr. Purcell decided it was time to enter the field that had dominated his thoughts all along—medicine.

With his veterinary training behind him, he was able to complete medical school in less than three years. It was in his practice in Las Vegas that he discovered Mannatech. "My training as a veterinarian included study in nutrition, and I had seen how powerful nutrition could be in replacing missing elements. It's funny that in veterinary school we had three semesters of nutrition, and in human medical school I received about half an hour my first year."

He continues, "I met Mannatech's researchers and realized they had something new that appeared to be scientifically validated. I began using the products in my practice, and I've had good results. As for other doctors, some seem interested, but I understand that it's a shift for them. I find they are usually open-minded when it comes to talking about care for a member of their own family. Then they are all ears! Many of them remain pretty closed-minded in general. I know they are busy and many have been educated about pharmaceuticals only. Things are changing, but slowly." ■