A MEMORIAL TO THE LATE

JULIUS H. MINER

On March 13, at the age of 66 years, and at the climax of a career as a lawyer, Master in Chancery, and Judge, the Honorable Julius Miner passed on. We honor his memory.

Julius Miner was born in Russia on May 25, 1896 and came to this country when seven years old. The family settled on Chicago's west side and engaged in the struggle of making ends meet. From this beginning it was a long trek to the north side apartment overlooking Lake Michigan.

The move began with the boy learning to work for money while attending school in Chicago. The work habits developed in these formative years were invaluable in later years in the husbanding of energies to cope with the demanding field which he had chosen.

At the age of 21, in 1917, Julius Miner graduated from the Kent College of Law and took the Illinois Bar Exam. He passed at the top of the class. In 1924, at the ripe age of 28, he was appointed a Master in Chancery and served in that capacity until 1940. During the years of the Great Depression he heard a host of difficult and disagreeable cases, many of which involved human misery and failure.

From the earliest days he had been active in politics, and in 1940 was elected a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. With the exception of a short period following 1950, he served in this position until 1958,

when he was appointed to the Federal Bench. His fellow judges elected him to the post of Chief Justice of the Circuit Court and to other honorable and challenging stewardships.

While serving on the Circuit Court of Cook County, Julius Miner became known as an innovator. He had a flair for originality. This capacity also marked his years on the Federal Bench. His innovations were pointed at two targets - the improvement of the administration of justice and the expedition of the judicial procedure. He firmly believed in administering justice, and in the principle that justice delayed is justice denied.

In the late 1940's he originated the plan requiring a sixty day cooling off period between the filing of a notice of intention and the filing of a Complaint in a divorce action. Later he was active in support of the use of impartial medical testimony and the adoption of the affidavit of disavowal of solicitation, now required as a prerequisite to the filing of a Complaint in the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. His support was also felt in the separating of the trial of the issue of liability from that of damages. These crusades all reflected his sympathetic understanding of real people and their problems.

Judge Miner occupies a high place in the memories of many of the lawyers who practice before him, because of his kindly treatment of

them as neophytes. The young lawyer before him was exposed to a gentle course in courtroom procedure in spite of often stumbling attempts to present his case.

Years after being elected to the Bench, Judge Miner enrolled in the Northwestern University School of Law and fulfilled the requirements for the degree of Master in Law. He wrote several textbooks and published over a dozen articles on legal subjects.

He was unsparing of himself in his unobtrusive help to others and in his dedicated service in all phases of the public interest. He had wisdom, kindless, and a genuine interest in the welfare of all of the people.

Judge Miner's sense of humility and his well known sense of humor are startlingly reflected in a line from one of his many public speeches, when he said: "I would like to be known as just Julius."

On the day before he died, an editorial concerning his illness appeared in a Chicago paper. It was the first notice to many that he was ill. The writer there said: "Men of his wisdom, courage, patriotism and energy are needed on the bench and in the community * * *."

This is the man we honor here today.

Be it resolved that this Memorial shall be spread upon the records of the Bar Association of the Seventh Federal Circuit.