Lloyd Milton Nyhus, MD

J. R. DeBord

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Lloyd Milton Nyhus, MD died peacefully from natural causes at the age of 85 years on December 15, 2008. He was the Warren H. Cole Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago from 1967 to 1989 and retired from the University in 1995, although he remained an internationally renowned surgical figure until his death.

Dr. Nyhus was born June 24, 1923 in Mt. Vernon, Washington. He earned a bachelor's degree from the Pacific Lutheran College in 1945 and an MD at the Medical College of Alabama in 1947. He did his surgical training at the University of Washington under his mentor, Dr. Henry Harkins, finishing in 1956. He served in the US Naval

Reserve Medical Corps. He remained on the faculty of the University of Washington in a productive scientific and clinical career until being recruited to the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1967 as Head of the Department of Surgery. During his 22 years as Head of the University of Illinois Department of Surgery, Dr. Nyhus developed an innovating, multidisciplinary residency program responsible for the training of almost 300 surgeons, recruited a top-flight faculty to the department, published 467 scientific papers in refereed surgical and medical journals, edited in English and foreign translation of 101 books and wrote 133 textbook chapters in surgery. His renowned textbooks, *Mastery of Surgery*, *Hernia*, and *Surgery of the Stomach and Duodenum*, persist in new editions with new editors and continue to educate and influence new surgeons worldwide. He served on the editorial boards of numerous surgical journals, including a Senior Member of the board of *Hernia*, this excellent and growing journal. Dr. Nyhus was involved in numerous professional organizations, including terms as Chairman of the American Board of Surgery, President of the Central Surgical Association, President of the International Society of Surgery, President of the Chicago Surgical Society, President of the Society of University Surgeons, President of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, First Vice President of the American College of Surgeons, First Vice President of the American Surgical Association, President of the Illinois Surgical Society, and President of the Warren H. Cole Society.

Dr. Nyhus was part of a great generation of academic surgeons, yet, despite his national and international acclaim, he was a steady, calm, kind, humorous, and gregarious gentleman who embraced and fostered relationships with his students, residents, staff, and colleagues worldwide. He was a mentor and role model to a generation of outstanding surgeons.

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A Festschrift for Lloyd M. Nyhus, MD was published as the July 1996 issue of the American Journal of Surgery, volume 172, number 1. This issue of the journal describes, in detail, his influence on American and international surgery. The Surgical Forum of the American College of Surgeons was dedicated to Dr. Nyhus in 1990 and Dr. Sidney Levitsky's dedication summed up the surgical community's respect for Dr. Nyhus as follows: *The Committee dedicates this volume to Lloyd Nyhus... an eminent educator and international surgical statesmen... in recognition of many contributions to nurture young surgical academicians, develop a supportive environment for surgical research and establish an international bridge of surgical science for serious young investigators throughout the world.*

Numerous other honors on the American and world surgical stage have been bestowed on Dr. Nyhus, many for his scientific endeavors, but most for his endearing passion for the community of surgeons worldwide.

Dr. Nyhus was preceded in death by his loving wife and partner of 57 years, Margaret, in 2006, and is survived by his daughter, Sheila Massey of Portland, Oregon and son, Lief Nyhus of Chicago, Illinois. He will be missed by all.

Memorials may be sent to the Lloyd M. Nyhus Memorial Lectureship in Surgery c/o Kathy Wohlfelder, Senior Director of Development, UIC Office of Medical Advancement (MC-792), 1747 West Roosevelt Road, Suite 302, Chicago, IL 60608-1203, USA.