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MEMORIAL CITATION

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL ATTORNEYS

THOMAS A. WALSH

“So venerable, so majestic is this living temple of justice, this immemorial yet ever freshly growing fabric of our common law, that the least of us is proud who may point to so much as one stone thereof and say, the work of my hands is here.”

These words were spoken in 1940 in response to the award of the American Bar Association Medal for conspicuous service in the cause of American jurisprudence. The recipient was Roscoe Pound.

Although popularly familiar for his work while Dean of the Harvard Law School, Pound laid the foundations for his life's achievements in Nebraska.

It was in Nebraska that he was born and practiced law, thus receiving the working basis for his scholarly publications to improve the legal profession. He began his teaching career at the University of Nebraska, his formal writing in our Supreme Court of Nebraska, and his administrative role as Dean of the Nebraska University College of Law. In 1906, while Dean, he became one of the first professors of law to address the American Bar Association. This speech was so basic and is so applicable today that as late as June of this year a plaque was placed in the Minnesota Supreme Court chambers, the site of the address.

Upon leaving Nebraska, Dean Pound continued his impressive work perpetuating the search for legal truth. In the 94 years of his life, his publications numbered 1,066, of which 303 are books and major papers.

Dean Pound's heritage to Nebraskans did not end with his death in July of 1964. Let us remember his own words, spoken when he was a “mere” seventy: “There is much more to be done to make our American administration of justice what it should be in the twentieth century, and, if for no other reason, I do not feel ripe for an obituary.”

Neither should we.