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Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal, Vol. 66 (2016), No. 3, 591–591

Persistent URL: <http://dml.cz/dmlcz/145857>

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REMINISCENCES ON MIROSLAV FIEDLER

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(Received June 11, 2016)

I was very pleased when this special issue was announced and a paper was solicited from me. I had recently seen Miroslav (at a meeting in Prague during the summer of 2013) and had a most enjoyable visit with him. It turned out that was to be the last time I saw him and that he won't see the special issue. But, that is not so important; what is, is his mathematical outlook and his friendship. He loved mathematics and was an enthusiastic participant in a group endeavor to unlock the mysteries of matrices. I always had great respect for him, not just because of his intellect and accomplishments, but because he did what he did for the joy of understanding. I think that he was always friendly and helpful to me, partly because he realized that I shared the same outlook. Unfortunately, this outlook is not so common anymore. Certain unfortunate motivations and behaviors have crept in because of modern pressures. I miss Miroslav. But, we should all remember the outlook of Miroslav and others, because this is what will lead to real success in our endeavor.

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