

By Representative Turnbull

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring the memory of novelist  
3 and teacher, Michael Shaara.

4  
5 WHEREAS, Michael Shaara is most well known for writing  
6 the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, "The Killer Angels," in  
7 1975, but to a great many former students of Florida State  
8 University, Michael Shaara was an inspired writer, teacher,  
9 and friend whose life and career ended much too quickly, and

10 WHEREAS, after graduating from Rutgers University and  
11 attending Columbia University and the University of Vermont,  
12 Michael Shaara began his writing career, with 75 published  
13 short stories and articles and two novels to his credit before  
14 coming to FSU as a teacher in the early 1960's, and

15 WHEREAS, widely admired by his students, Michael Shaara  
16 eschewed the traditional classroom setting in favor of more  
17 informal methods, and

18 WHEREAS, in 1965, Michael Shaara suffered a heart  
19 attack and was "clinically dead" for nearly an hour, and

20 WHEREAS, after being brought back to life with shock  
21 treatments, Michael Shaara turned the experience into an  
22 article for the Saturday Evening Post called "The New  
23 Lazarus," and

24 WHEREAS, the American Medical Association presented  
25 Michael Shaara with an award for the article and for his  
26 research and understanding of heart problems, and

27 WHEREAS, in 1966, Michael Shaara won the Coyle Moore,  
28 Jr., Award for excellence in teaching, and

29 WHEREAS, in 1968, Michael Shaara's first novel, "The  
30 Broken Place," was published, gaining him wide recognition,  
31 and

1           WHEREAS, in 1975, Michael Shaara won the Pulitzer Prize  
2 in literature for "The Killer Angels," his graphic account of  
3 the Battle of Gettysburg, and

4           WHEREAS, Michael Shaara published another novel, "The  
5 Herald," in 1981, and

6           WHEREAS, in 1985, Michael Shaara completed his fourth  
7 novel, "Billy Boy," which covers 24 hours in the life of Billy  
8 Chapel, a star pitcher in major league baseball who is  
9 completing his 17th season, and

10           WHEREAS, Michael Shaara died of a heart attack three  
11 years later in 1988, and

12           WHEREAS, Michael Shaara's final work, "Billy Boy," was  
13 published posthumously as "For Love of the Game," and

14           WHEREAS, the State of Florida lost one of its finest  
15 authors with the passing of Michael Shaara, and

16           WHEREAS, it is with sadness and fond memories that the  
17 friends, students, and readers of Michael Shaara note the  
18 tenth anniversary of his death, NOW, THEREFORE,

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20 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
21 Florida:

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23           That the House of Representatives of the State of  
24 Florida hereby honors the memory of novelist and teacher,  
25 Michael Shaara.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution  
27 be presented to his wife, Helen Shaara, as a tangible token of  
28 the sentiments expressed herein.

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