

2010 SESSION

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

Offered February 2, 2010

Memorializing the centenary of the death of Quentin Compson (1891 - 1910).

Patron—Ware, R.L.

WHEREAS, it falls to the literary imagination to articulate the essential nature of human order—or disorder—in any given epoch, and therefore to articulate the struggle of individual human beings to achieve, and to participate in, an order whose elements transcend the vagaries of time; and

WHEREAS, the fictional creations of great literary artists are often more dear to memory—one thinks of Robin Hood, Hamlet, Sherlock Holmes, or Tom Sawyer—than the leading men and women in the public life of history; and

WHEREAS, William Faulkner was the creator of numerous characters who will live forever in the imagination of the American people generally, the Southern people specifically—and possibly to Virginians second only to Mississippians, owing to Faulkner's sometime residence at Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, the dilemma confronted by Quentin Compson of Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* and *Absalom, Absalom!*—to extract meaning from the lost traditions of the past in the hope of living well within the vortex of the modern present—is the dilemma experienced, still, by us all; and

WHEREAS, Quentin Compson lost his struggle for order and leapt to his death in the Charles River while a freshman at Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, Quentin Compson "drowned in the odour of honeysuckle" on June 10, 1910; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the House express its latest appreciation of the genius of William Faulkner and also its latest meditation upon the enduring lessons to be learned by recollecting the life of Quentin Compson upon the centenary of his death; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to The Friends of Faulkner in the Foothills of the Blue Ridge, who will commemorate the centenary of Quentin Compson's death in keeping with their preservation of the literary legacy of William Faulkner.

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