



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, Nelle Harper Lee was born in Monroeville, Alabama on April 28, 1926; and

WHEREAS, Harper Lee attended Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama, and studied law at the University of Alabama from 1945 to 1949. Lee spent a year as an exchange student in Oxford University, Wellington Square. Before finishing her studies, she went to New York to pursue a literary career; and

WHEREAS, "To Kill a Mockingbird," published in July 1960, is Harper Lee's first published novel. The novel focused on segregation, tolerance and the trial of a black man falsely accused of raping a young white woman during the Depression era in rural Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the novel went on to become an international bestseller, and was adapted into screen in 1962; and

WHEREAS, earning eight Academy Award nominations, the movie version of "To Kill a Mockingbird" won four awards, including Best Actor for Gregory Peck's portrayal of Atticus Finch; and

WHEREAS, "To Kill a Mockingbird" has been translated into 40 languages; and

WHEREAS, Harper Lee has received numerous awards and honors for her novel including the Pulitzer Prize in 1961; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Harper Lee was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor, which recognizes Alabamians for their outstanding accomplishments and services; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2007, President George W. Bush awarded Harper Lee the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contribution to literature; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, President Barack Obama awarded Lee the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given by the United States government for outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts; and

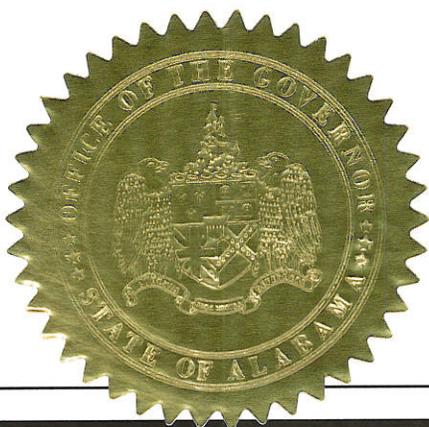
WHEREAS, on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, Harper Lee's novel "Go Set a Watchman" will be released; and

WHEREAS, Harper Lee has represented the state of Alabama as one of our brightest and most accomplished citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim July 14, 2015, as

Go Set a Watchman Day

in the state of Alabama and commend Harper Lee's literary mark on our state and nation.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 13th day of July 2015.

Robert Bentley
Robert Bentley, Governor