



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, Nelle Harper Lee was born in Monroeville, Monroe County, Alabama, on April 28, 1926, the youngest child of attorney Amasa Coleman Lee and Frances Finch Lee; and

WHEREAS, Harper Lee explored and observed her rural Alabama world with fascination and curiosity, capturing in memory the culture, speech and values of her family, friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, she pursued studies at Huntingdon College and The University of Alabama, where she honed her skills as a writer and decided to pursue a literary career in New York; and

WHEREAS, over the following decade she wrote and published To Kill a Mockingbird, a classic modern American novel that explores themes of racism and small-town life through the eyes of children and through characters drawn from the author's Alabama heritage; and

WHEREAS, To Kill a Mockingbird became a transformative influence in the lives of people around the world as a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel selling nearly 50 million copies in 40 languages, as an Academy Award-winning film and as a perennially popular stage production; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, to Harper Lee in 2007 in recognition of her extraordinary contributions; and

WHEREAS, she continues to delight and challenge us through Mockingbird and additional published works, demonstrating how we, as Alabamians and Americans, can honor the past even as we scrutinize the flaws to be found there; and

WHEREAS, her life is an inspiration to young people seeking to expand their vision of the world without losing ties to the home that shaped them;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2026, as

Harper Lee Centennial Day

in the state of Alabama.



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 16th day of April 2026.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor