

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation introduced by Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, honoring the 50th anniversary of Nelle Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

"In July of 1960, Nelle Harper Lee's iconic novel, which would inspire generations and focus world wide interest on Monroeville, Alabama, first began rolling off the printing press," Rep. Bonner said.

"It's not overstating things to say that *To Kill a Mockingbird* is one of the great literary works of the 20th century and its publication shaped racial discourse in this country while bringing international attention to our corner of the world."

Nelle Harper Lee's first attempt to make a name for herself exceeded all expectations, garnering her the Pulitzer Prize, and a half century later it is still impacting classroom discussion. To date, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been published in over 40 languages and has sold in excess of 30 million copies.

"I had the honor of attending the 2007 White House ceremony during which President George W. Bush presented Nelle Harper Lee the Presidential Medal of Freedom," Bonner added.

“During the ceremony, the president observed Ms. Lee’s novel is timeless in both its literary merit and its moral message. To quote President Bush, ‘*To Kill a Mockingbird* has influenced the character of our country for the better. It’s been a gift to the entire world. As a model of good writing and human sensibility, this book will be read and studied forever.’

“I join with the people of South Alabama in saying ‘thank you’ to Nelle Harper Lee for this great treasure and extending our congratulations on this special anniversary,” said Rep. Bonner.

Congressman Bonner’s resolution, which was cosponsored by 85 other Members including the bipartisan leadership of the House, passed Monday afternoon by voice vote.