



Paula Highfill, president of the Friends of the Mansfield Public Library, and former first lady Laura Bush unveil the bronze plaque declaring the library a national Literary Landmark.

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Literary Landmark honors city

Laura Bush calls author John Howard Griffin "one of the strongest white voices for civil rights."

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A half century after the publication of "Black Like Me," author John Howard Griffin and his hometown were honored with a national Literary Landmark on Sunday after-

noon. Former first lady Laura Bush called Griffin "one of the strongest white voices for civil rights" for coloring his skin in 1959, living as a black man for seven weeks while

noon.

traveling through Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama and then writing the best-selling book. "His descriptions of racism were so explosive that his family had to leave and move to Mexico," Bush told a crowd of more than 300 at the Mansfield Public Library that included Griffin's four children. Griffin was chosen for the Literary Landmark because of "his con-

More on GRIFFIN, 10A

Read the winning essay in the Friends of the Mansfield Public Library's "Power of a Book" contest on Page 7A.