

PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING APRIL 10, 2017, AS GOPHER TORTOISE DAY

WHEREAS, Florida Gopher tortoise Day will be observed annually in Indian River County on April 10th; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Gopher Tortoise has been living on the earth for 500,000 to 2 million years; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Gopher Tortoise today is a Threatened Species in the State of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Gopher Tortoise is considered a keystone species; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Gopher Tortoise's burrow protects more than 350 other commensal species, some of which are also listed as Threatened; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Gopher Tortoise's habitat needs protection; and,

WHEREAS, having Florida Gopher Tortoises and other species in our area helps to sustain the area's ecology and provide a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA that April 10, 2017 be designated as Florida Gopher Tortoise Day in Indian River County and the Board encourages all citizens to protect this species by learning more about them and volunteering to help with conservation efforts.

Adopted this 4th day of April, 2017.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**



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Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

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