

(Name, department, organization) has proposed to the (City, County or State) that there be a day set aside for recognition of the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), and

Whereas, Gopher Tortoise Day will be observed annually in the (City/County) April 10,  
and

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

Whereas, the Gopher Tortoise today is, in the State of \_\_\_\_\_, State listed as  
Threatened, and in parts of the U.S., is Federally listed as Threatened, and

Whereas, the Gopher Tortoise is considered a keystone species, and

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

Whereas, the Gopher Tortoise's habitat needs protection, and

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

Now, therefore, we the (City, County or State), do hereby proclaim April 10th as

Gopher Tortoise Day in the (City, County or State) and urge all citizens to protect this  
species by doing and learning more about them.

Dated this day of (month, day, year)

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