

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION 2019 – 44

WHEREAS, the gopher tortoise (*gopherus polyphemus*) has been living on the earth for 500,000 to 2 million years; and

WHEREAS, the gopher tortoise is the official state tortoise of the State of Florida and is an iconic species of Florida's natural communities; and

WHEREAS, the gopher tortoise today is, in the State of Florida, state listed as Threatened, and in parts of the United States, 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 the area help sustain the area's ecology and provides a source of joy and appreciation for nature; and

WHEREAS, collaboration among Florida's public and private entities, including military bases and private landowners, is vital for the conservation and long-term survival of the gopher tortoise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaim April 10, 2019 as **GOPHER TORTOISE DAY** in Hernando County.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners encourage raising awareness through media, social media, schools, and outreach activities and urge all citizens to help protect the gopher tortoise species through education and awareness.


ADOPTED in Regular Session this 9th day of April 2019, A.D.

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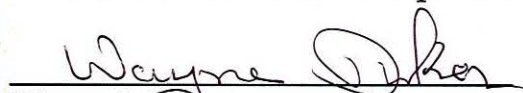
Attest:



Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller



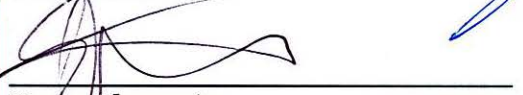
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