

Due Unto Others Trust has proposed to the State of Florida that there be a day set aside for recognition of the gopher tortoise *Gopher polyphemus*, and

Whereas, Gopher Tortoise Day will be observed annually in the Miami Dade 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 Florida, 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 State Florida, do hereby proclaim April 10th as

Gopher Tortoise Day in the State of Florida and urge all citizens to protect this species by doing and learning more about them.

Dated this day of March 12, 2022

Do Unto Others Trust