

PROCLAMATION
Gopher Tortoise Day
April 10, 2023

Lake County Water Authority has proposed to Lake County residents 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 Lake County Florida, 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

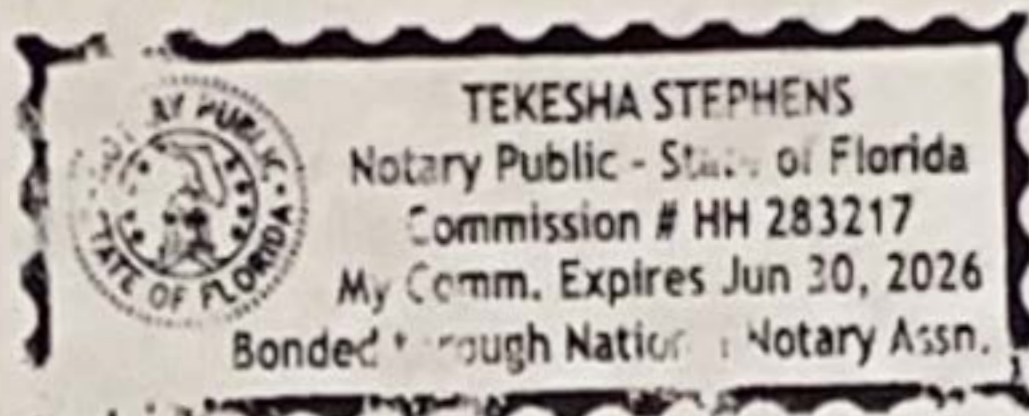
WHEREAS, having Gopher Tortoises and other species in our area, helps to sustain the area's ecology and provide man with a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE the Lake County Water Authority, do hereby proclaim April 10th as GOPHER TORTOISE DAY in the Lake County, Florida and urge all citizens to protect this species by doing and learning more about them.



In witness whereof I have unto set my hand
And caused the seal to be affixed.

Vice Chairman- Butch Hendrick
District 4



Attest

3/22/2023

Date