



***The Board of County Commissioners***

**RESOLUTION**

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

**Whereas, the Gopher Tortoise is currently listed as a threatened species in the State of Florida, and in parts of the United States they are federally listed as threatened; and**

**Whereas, the Gopher Tortoise is considered a keystone species, due to the protection their burrows provide to more than 350 other species, some of which are also listed as threatened; and**

**Whereas, a thriving population of Gopher Tortoises in our region helps to sustain the area's ecology and provide our citizens with a source of joy and appreciation for nature; and**

**Whereas, recent efforts by the State of Florida are underway to help ensure that gopher tortoises are restored with secure, viable populations throughout their range in Florida.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Board of County Commissioners of Lee County, Florida hereby proclaims April 10, 2024 as**

**GOPHER TORTOISE DAY**

**in Lee County and encourages all citizens to raise their awareness of the guidelines and conservation measures in place to help protect this species.**

**Duly executed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2024.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**



  
Chairman