

Office of the Mayor



Venice, Florida
"City on the Gulf"

Proclamation

Whereas, Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*) Day will be observed annually in the City of Venice April 10, 2016; 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 part 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

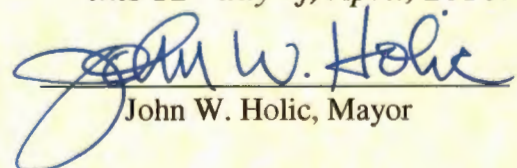
Whereas, Having Gopher Tortoise's and other species in our area, helps to sustain the area's ecology and provide man with a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

Now, Therefore, I, John Holic, Mayor of the City of Venice, Florida, on behalf of the Venice City Council, do hereby proclaim April 10, 2016 as:

Gopher Tortoise Day

in the city of Venice and urge all citizens to protect this species by learning more about them.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Venice to be affixed this 12th day of, April, 2016.


John W. Holic, Mayor

