

Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

Whereas, Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*) Day will be observed annually in the City of Venice April 10, 2017; and

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

Whereas, today in the State of Florida the Gopher Tortoise is 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

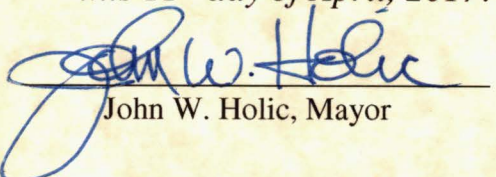
Whereas, having Gopher Tortoises and other species in our area helps to sustain the area's ecology and provide man with a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

Now, Therefore, I, John Holic, Mayor of the City of Venice, Florida, on behalf of the Venice City Council, do hereby proclaim April 10, 2017 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 11th day of April, 2017.*


John W. Holic, Mayor

