

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 37**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PROCLAIMING APRIL 10, 2020 AS GOPHER TORTOISE DAY IN  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**WHEREAS**, Whereas, Gopher Tortoise Day will be observed annually in Nassau 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 lives in the pine flatwoods and coastal grassland, coastal strand, beach dune, low-intensity developed areas, and spoil areas of Nassau County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gopher Tortoise's habitat needs protection; and

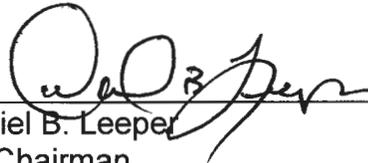
**WHEREAS**, an estimated 250 Gopher Tortoise's reside within the Ft. Clinch State Park and Ralph Simmons State Forest; and

**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, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, this 23th day of March, 2020, do hereby proclaim April 10th as Gopher Tortoise Day in Nassau County and urge all citizens to protect this species by action and by learning more about them.

**PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED THIS 23TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**



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Daniel B. Leeper  
Its: Chairman

ATTEST as to Chairman's Signature:

  
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JOHN A. CRAWFORD  
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form and legality by the  
Nassau County Attorney:

  
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MICHAEL S. MULLIN  
County Attorney