

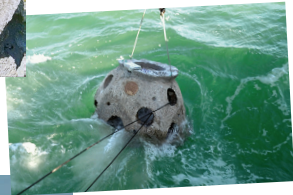


ETERNAL REEFS

a 501c3 non-profit organization

# *A guide for What to Expect*

*Be prepared for your casting, viewing and dedication*



## Day 1, The Casting - Friday

We encourage families and friends to participate as much as they'd like with casting and creating their loved one's Eternal Reef.

The casting is the time when the friends and family mix cremated remains with environmentally-safe concrete and create what we call a "Pearl", which is later inserted inside the larger Eternal Reef.



Once loved ones cast the Pearl, it is put aside to cure overnight and fresh concrete is placed on the top of the Eternal Reef. Family members and friends can place handprints and write messages in the damp concrete, if they like. We provide sea shells and glass beads to decorate the top.

Many families bring small, environmentally-safe mementoes to personalize the top of the Eternal Reef, individualizing it in a meaningful way for their loved one.

For family and friends that cannot attend the casting or who do not feel comfortable participating, they may choose to have Eternal Reefs staff perform all aspects of the casting. This option is called Eternal Reefs Direct.

Our experienced staff is on site to direct and assist family and friends and, at the beginning of the day, we offer a clear overview of how the activities and process will work, and we will explain everyone's role during the casting.

The casting takes place late morning into early afternoon and usually lasts about two hours, although some families choose to take more or less time. Remember, it is an outdoor construction process so please dress appropriately for the weather and wear no open toed shoes, sandals or heels, for your own safety.



After the family finishes personalizing their loved one's Eternal Reef, they are free to enjoy family time and relax the rest of the day.

## Day 2, The Family Fun Day - Saturday

The second day, families are free to explore the community while the Eternal Reefs staff places the Pearls, completes the Eternal Reefs and makes final preparations for the viewing and dedication.

## Day 3, The Viewing - Sunday

The day before the scheduled dedication, family and friends are invited to view their loved one's finished Eternal Reef. Many families take the opportunity to take photos, make rubbings of the plaque and write final goodbyes and tributes on the memorials.



Eternal Reefs provides rubbing wax and paper for taking rubbings of the plaques and chalk for writing messages on the Eternal Reef.



During the viewing, military funeral honors are also bestowed for any eligible veterans of our armed forces and it is one of our highest honors to make these arrangements. Honors are presented at high noon during the viewing and we and those witnessing the presentation find this a most moving and meaningful experience. An Honor Guard from the appropriate branch of service performs the ceremony by playing taps, folding the flag and presenting it to the designated family member.

To determine eligibility for receiving military honors, a legible copy of the deceased's DD-214 (their discharge papers) needs to be provided with the other Eternal Reefs order forms and paperwork.



The viewing takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

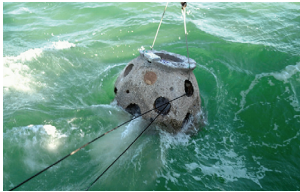
# Day 4, The Placement and Dedication - Monday

On the day of the dedication, we ask that all family members and friends attending the dedication arrive to the charter boat by 7:30 a.m. The family boat will leave the dock promptly at 8:00 a.m.

On the boat ride to the reef site, Eternal Reefs provides fresh flowers and a tribute reef, a small replica of their loved one's Eternal Reef for each family. As we travel to the reef site families will decorate the tribute reef with the flowers for their individual family dedication at the reef site.



Once on site, a separate placement boat will individually place each Eternal Reef on the ocean floor. As a memorial is being prepared for placement, the name of the individual will be announced so their family can watch as their loved one's Eternal Reef is lowered onto the reef site.



After each of the Eternal Reefs has been placed on the ocean floor, the family boat moves over the reef site and each family has the opportunity to say a final goodbye, individually dedicate the reef site to their loved one, and close their dedication by putting the tribute reef decorated with flowers into the ocean. After all the family dedications are completed, Eternal Reefs will dedicate the site to everyone memorialized. We then read a brief passage from a speech by President John F. Kennedy called 'The Sea,' circle the reef site and sound the boat's horn three times as a final tribute, and return to the shore.



Families should plan about four hours for the entire boat ride and dedication process. Please remember this is a marine construction project and can be delayed for a number of reasons both at the dock and when we are on the water so we suggest not making travel arrangements until late in the afternoon.



## Keepsakes

Many families choose to purchase a variety of keepsakes to remember this special weekend and their loved one's unique memorial. Options include sterling silver pendants which can be engraved with their loved one's reef site GPS coordinates, hats, t-shirts, duplicate tribute reefs like the one decorated on the boat, tribute reef urns for a symbolic portion of the remains and additional certificates.

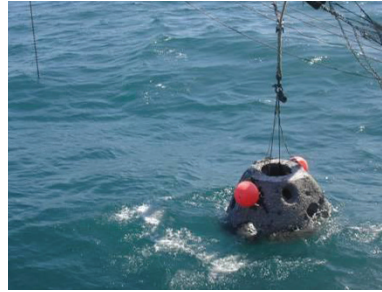




# Other Considerations

## *Weather and the marine environment*

Reef building is a marine construction process and many factors beyond human control can impact our ability to prepare and place Eternal Reefs on schedule. In addition to weather, wind, waves and tidal fluctuations, equipment issues can all affect whether we can safely place the Eternal Reefs.



If for any reason we deem it unsafe or imprudent to place the memorials on the scheduled date, we will still make every effort possible to take the families to the reef site for their own dedication, weather permitting.

If the scheduled Eternal Reef placement cannot occur, we will place the Eternal Reefs as soon as possible and notify the families appropriately.

## *Sea Conditions*

If someone is prone to sea-sickness, please take appropriate steps to prepare for a day on the water.

## *Dress Appropriately*

The casting is a work day in a shipyard environment so dress accordingly. Please do not wear sandals, open toed shoes or heels.

The viewing is a relaxed day so dress comfortably keeping in mind the weather conditions.

The dedication is offshore and on a boat. Dress comfortably and remember that if you bring it with you, you can always take it off but if you don't have it with you, you cannot put it on.

## *Travel*

If you need assistance finding accommodations at any point for the casting, viewing or placement and dedication, we are happy to assist.

## *Pets*

Although we love animals and rarely have a project where someone doesn't memorialize their four-legged family member, we do not allow pets on site at Eternal Reefs activities. The safety of all the families and your pet is most important to Eternal Reefs.

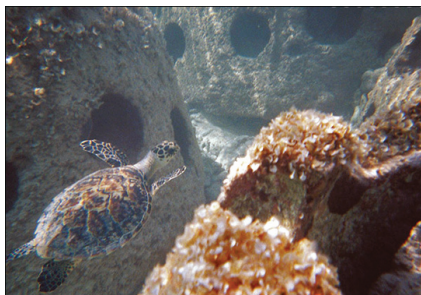
## *Media and Photographs*

From time to time members of the media request to attend our events. Our families always come first, so please know we respect your privacy. Some families enjoy talking to the media and sharing their loved one's story. If you would like to speak with the media about your loved one, please let us know. If you would prefer not to be involved with the media, please let us know that as well and we will ensure your privacy is respected.

Eternal Reefs does take photos of all of our events and post them on our Facebook page. You are free to download any images here:

<http://www.facebook.com/eternalreefs>





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