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SEA TURTLES MEMORIALIZED IN REEF BALL FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2006

Eternal Reefs Joins The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center April 17-20

To Honor Four Turtles: Ranger, ICie, Banks and Wiggles

SARASOTA, Fla. – March 30, 2015 – Eternal Reefs, the company which memorialized the North Carolina Coast’s beloved Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle named Dare in 2006 in a reef ball, will return to the Topsail Island/Wrightsville Beach area next month to honor four more special sea turtles April 17-20. All four received care at The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center but passed away due to serious and ultimately untreatable injuries and conditions.

An Eternal Reef provides a creative, environmentally enhancing memorial by placing a person’s (or turtle’s or other pet’s) “cremains” into a concrete mixture that is then cast into a gigantic reef ball and placed on the ocean floor to attract aquatic wildlife. It quickly fosters new marine growth replenishing the world’s diminishing natural reef systems therefore an Eternal Reef “memorial reef” is at once healing for the sea and for families.

“We are committed to giving the best care possible to each sea turtle admitted to our facility and in the process, they steal a special place in our hearts,” said Jean Beasley, director of The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center. “Our goal is to return each sea turtle to their ocean home but sometimes their injuries and illnesses are so severe that recovery is not possible. To honor our promise to those turtles not able to recover, we sometimes release their ashes as other turtles are being released. Being able to remember our much loved ICie, Ranger, Wiggles and Banks by placing their ashes in a reef ball for deployment to Dare’s Reef honors our pledge to them. They will be back home at last.”

The Center lost Ranger, ICie, Banks and Wiggles all within the last year.

“We at Eternal Reefs share The Center’s love and respect for ocean marine life, especially sea turtles, and we are honored to be able to memorialize Ranger, ICie, Banks and Wiggles in an Eternal Reef,” said George Frankel, CEO of Eternal Reefs. “We are saddened by their passing but happy to be able to help the people of North Carolina and all the world remember these four wonderful creatures in Dare’s Reef.”

Dare was a female Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle, the most highly endangered of all the sea turtle species. Found in 1999 in Dare County and severely underweight for her young age of about 18 months, Dare suffered injuries from boat strikes and lesions. Just prior to impending release, Dare was evacuated from Topsail Island during Hurricane Floyd and spent four days floating in her tank filled with contaminated flood waters. When rescued by boat, her tank was found floating in flood waters that had reached the tree tops. Dare was re-examined by vets and found to have physical and neurological problems, and there was

some speculation that she may have suffered a lightning strike during the hurricane. Following major surgery for a large encapsulated mass and other medical issues, Dare slipped into a coma and passed away March 10, 2005. Her reef ball was placed off the Topsail Island coastline on June 8, 2006.

When Dare's Reef was established in 2006, people gathered from Georgia, North Carolina, New York, Indiana, Kansas and California to memorialize their loved ones in that Eternal Reef. In 2013, a memorial for The Center's beloved volunteer Elizabeth "Betsy" Kautz was placed on Dare's Reef and four other families joined that project. In 2014, four families visited Topsail Island / Wrightsville Beach to memorialize their loved ones on Dare's Reef. Next month when Ranger, ICie, Banks and Wiggles are honored, it will be the first time turtles will be memorialized here since the 2006 placement of Dare.

During the April 17-20 placement events, families from New York, Illinois, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland and Florida will join in placing loved ones on Dare's Reef for their final rest; The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center will be open for these families only to tour. The Center also plans to give families special memorial certificates decorated with ribbon and rosemary, to represent remembrance.

About The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center

Headquartered in Topsail Beach, North Carolina, The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center is a 501c3 nonprofit sea turtle sanctuary, committed to the care and release of sick and injured sea turtles. The Center is one of a limited number of sea turtle treatment facilities in the United States that accommodates injured loggerhead, green, and Kemp's Ridley turtles from up and down the Eastern Seaboard. Most of the turtles have injuries because of human involvement in their habitat. Originally founded by Karen Beasley as the "Topsail Turtle Project," Karen saw the need to preserve and protect the sea turtle nests, nesting females, and hatchlings on the 26 miles of coastline on Topsail Island. After Karen's untimely death, the torch was passed on to her mother, Jean Beasley. For more information about the Center visit www.seaturtlehospital.org or their Facebook page, also Sea Turtle Hospital.

About Eternal Reefs Inc.

Eternal Reefs, Inc. provides a creative, environmentally enhancing way to memorialize the cremated remains of a loved one. The company incorporates cremated remains into a concrete mixture used to cast artificial reef formations. The artificial reefs are dedicated as permanent memorials while also bolstering natural coastal reef formations. Since 1998, the company has placed more than 1,500 Memorial Reefs in 20 locations off the coasts of Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, New Jersey, Texas and Virginia, substantially increasing the ocean's diminishing reef systems. The reefs are engineered to last forever and withstand hurricanes and other natural disasters. They vary in size from 600 pounds (2' high x 3' wide) to 4000 pounds (4' high x 6' wide). Memorial reefs can only go in properly permitted locations by the US Government. Prices for Eternal Reefs range from \$2,495 for *Eternal Reefs Direct* to \$6,995 for the Mariner Memorial Reef. Contact Eternal Reefs Inc. at www.eternalreefs.com or on Facebook.

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