

Eternal Reefs Fast Facts

- Eternal Reefs is an approved 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to using ocean memorials to preserve, protect and enhance the marine environment to benefit future generations.
- Eternal Reefs is part of the most experienced and professional reef building team in the world. Our strategic partners, the Reef Ball Foundation and Reef Innovations, have worked in more than 70 countries and managed more than 4,000 reef projects representing more than 750,000 reefs worldwide. Eternal Reefs pioneered the concept of reef memorialization in 1998 is the only ocean-based memorial organization contributing to marine health.
- An Eternal Reef Memorial Reef is created when a person's cremated remains are incorporated into a gigantic "reef ball" using proprietary, environmentally friendly concrete. The Eternal Reef is then deployed to the ocean floor thus offering, not only a final resting place, but an environmentally sustainable way to give back after life by replenishing the dwindling natural reef systems. Eternal Reefs is the only memorial where family members can participate in creating a living legacy for their loved one that will preserve and protect the marine environment for future generations. Families design plaques for each memorial and can participate in the creation of their loved one's Eternal Reef. Many families experience real feelings of both contribution and personal accomplishment as they create their loved one's memorial reef.
- Eternal Reefs can use all, some, or none of the cremated remains to create the memorial. Families can choose to have spouses and other family members together in the same reef. The single most frequent request is to include beloved pets; there is no additional cost to memorialize a pet with its two-legged family member.
- Eternal Reefs Memorial Reefs are designed to be permanent contributions to the marine environment and are designed to incorporate into the natural substrata forever.
- The largest "green memorial" in the United States is the Silvertooth Reef, located in Sarasota, Fla. where hundreds of Eternal Reefs Memorial Reefs have been dedicated. More than 2,000 Eternal Reefs have been placed in 25 permitted locations off the coasts of Florida (both Atlantic and Gulf Coasts and the Panhandle), Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.
- In May 2018, Eternal Reefs dedicated the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef, the first and only ocean memorial honoring each of the 65 U.S. submarines and 4,000+ souls lost since the sub force was formed in 1900. Full military honors were bestowed at the dedication with middle school student docents from Sarasota Military Academy Prep School presenting folded flags to retired submariners. Each reef features a bronze plaque noting the boat's name, loss of life, the sub's best-known location of loss and the state responsible for commemorating the sub, if applicable. Of the 65 submarines that never returned from duty,

nine were lost prior to WWII, 52 submarines were lost during WWII, and four submarines were lost since the end of WWII. Two additional reef balls are in the project: one recognizing the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI) and, the pinnacle reef commemorating the entire project and those crews and boats lost in non-sinking accidents. No cremated remains are included in the 67 reef balls contained in the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef.

- In May 2019, Eternal Reefs took six structures in the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef to the reef site nine miles off the coast of Sarasota along with 70 retired submariners, other military representatives, family and friends. The structures deployed 45 feet below the surface by crane represented the four boats lost since WWII along with the USSVI reef and the pinnacle reef. In August the USCG Buoy Tender the Joshua Appleby and the Exuma Trader brought the remaining 61 reefs to the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef site and lowered them by crane.
- In October 2019, dive teams from Reef Innovations and the Sarasota Police completed properly orienting each memorial to face west, out to sea, and space the reefs four feet apart, as in all other national veteran cemeteries. For Veterans Day 2019, Eternal Reefs hosted an underwater ribbon cutting, officially opening the On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef.
- Eternal Reefs can only be placed in properly permitted locations approved by federal, state, and local governments. Eternal Reefs works with these agencies to determine the area of most benefit for the memorial reefs and families can choose their memorial reef location, however no placement spot is guaranteed prior to need due to expiring permits.
- The smallest Eternal Reef is two feet high and three feet wide and weighs about 600 pounds. The largest Eternal Reef is four feet high and six feet wide and weighs up to 4,000 pounds.
- An Eternal Reefs cost ranges from \$2,995 to \$7,495 depending on the size of the reef memorial. The boat ride to the final placement and dedication site for family members is not included in this fee.
- Cremation is growing dramatically in the U.S. and now is represented in more than 50 percent of funerals according to the Cremation Association of North America. CANA estimates that more than 45 percent of families with a cremated family member still have that loved one's remains sitting on a shelf or in a closet. An Eternal Reef is an appropriate alternative for final disposition and many families make the choice months and even years after their loved one's passing.
- Don Brawley, founder of Eternal Reefs, was instrumental in designing the "reef ball" artificial reef system in the late 1980s and it is used today to replenish dwindling natural reef barriers worldwide. It was his father-in-law's wish to be put in "one of Don's reef balls" because he said he could think of "nothing better than having all that action going on around me all the time.... just be sure the location has lots of red snapper and grouper."
- Find Eternal Reefs at www.eternalreefs.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/eternalreefs

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July 2020