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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 80 countries and managed more than 5,000 reef projects representing nearly 2 million 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 is created when a person's cremated remains are incorporated into a gigantic "reef ball" using proprietary, environmentally friendly concrete. Eternal Reefs are 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 each memorial plaque and can participate as much as desired in creating 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 and many parents tell us this is a very positive way to teach a child about loss.
- 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 more than 1,000 Eternal Reefs Memorial Reefs have been dedicated. Approximately 3,000 Eternal Reefs have been placed in total in 30 permitted locations off the coasts of Alabama, Florida (both Atlantic and Gulf Coasts and the Panhandle), Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, 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. From May to October 2019, all 65 reefs were deployed and positioned in organized rows and columns, as represented in our nation's veteran cemeteries, and all facing out to sea. The United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI) was a strategic partner in this reef project which is now benefiting the marine environment, nine miles off Sarasota's Big Pass in 45-feet of water. GPS coordinates: 27 15.795N 82 45.505W. [Access more information here.](#)
- Arlington of the Sea is a new project announced by Eternal Reefs in November 2023, at the non-profit's 25th anniversary celebration. Designed as a memorial choice for veterans wishing to continue their service with a green memorial to help preserve, protect and enhance the marine environment for future generations, Arlington of the Sea is currently a concept memorial reef which will require no land acquisition or development, no infrastructure construction and no long-term maintenance. The On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef is the demonstration project for Arlington of the Sea, showing the U.S. Veterans administration the value of creating a national veteran's memorial reef site as part of the national veterans cemetery network. [Access more information here.](#)
- 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.
- Costs for an Eternal Reef range from \$4,250 to \$9,250 depending on the reef size. The family boat trip to the ocean placement and dedication site is an additional fee.
- Cremation is growing dramatically in the U.S. and now represents more than 50% of funerals according to the Cremation Association of North America. CANA estimates that more than 45% 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 or 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."
- Access Eternal Reefs at eternalreefs.com or find on [Facebook](#).

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