

## YOUR ETERNAL REEF CAN HELP SAVE THE OCEANS



The Eternal Reefs™ story began in the 1980's when a diverse group of college friends began scuba diving together. Over the years they became more and more concerned about the worsening condition of the natural reef formations and the environment. Led by the founder of

the Reef Ball Development Group (RBDG), the circle of friends decided to try to make a difference in the world's oceans. The group which contained artists, sculptors, physicists, computer engineers, teachers and professionals developed mold systems for the artificial reef modules which closely mimic natural reef formations with environmentally friendly concrete.

Today, authorized Reef Ball contractors produce these units for state agencies and many private organizations worldwide. In the United States, approved artificial reefs can only be placed in properly permitted locations specified by the Federal, State and local governments. By 1999, RBDG had over 50,000 units in over 500 locations. RBDG's technology has become the world's leader in scientifically designed artificial reefs. Eternal Reefs works with agencies to find areas most in need of a memorial reef.

Burial at sea is a tradition as old as mankind. The Eternal Reefs tradition began with a song. Carleton Glen Palmer, a concert pianist and musician, desired to have the rhythm of the sea around him for eternity. He asked his daughter and son-in-law, developers of artificial reefs, to have his cremated remains put in a reef. As Carleton put it, "I can think of nothing better than having all that action going on around me all the time after I am gone. Just make sure that the location has lots of red snapper and grouper." Carleton also wanted an environmental legacy for his grandchildren. On June 1, 1998 a memorial reef was deployed and dedicated to Carleton Glen Palmer. Fish immediately began to inhabit the reef and natural marine life started to form.

Carleton Palmer's story spread to many people. The wonderful responses led other people to desire this dignified and spiritual way to be laid to rest. Out of this personal experience, the family of Carleton Palmer, who are founding members of RBDG, created Eternal Reefs.

Their mission is to provide an environmentally positive cremation memorial option. Eternal Reefs help restore and protect our world's ocean ecosystems through the development and use of natural looking and ecologically sound memorial reefs.

They utilize scientifically designed ocean reef systems that are state of the art, have been studied throughout the world, and are approved by United States Artificial Reef agencies.

The sea nurtures life from the smallest to the largest creatures on earth. In the past, man's reckless disregard for the continuity and development of the ocean's ecosystems put all life in jeopardy. The natural reefs cannot rebuild themselves

fast enough to meet human and sea life demands. Long lasting artificial reefs are useful tools for restoring our reef systems to a natural and productive balance.

An Eternal Reef provides not only a permanent memorialization option for your loved one, but simultaneously positively addresses this ecological emergency. An Eternal Reef becomes an environmental legacy for generations to come.

The remains can be added to any of the following units during the casting of the Eternal Reef. Each individual memorial reef comes with a bronze plaque attached to the memorial reef unit and two memorial certificates.

- Atlantis - (large) 4 feet high by 6 feet wide. 3500-3800 lbs. The largest of the reef units. Attracts the larger species of sea life.
- Nautilus - (medium) 3 feet high by 4 feet wide. 1200-1500 lbs. The building blocks of a massive reef structure. These units provide excellent habitats for all types of sea life.
- Aquarius - (small) 2 feet high by 3 feet wide. 350-400 lbs. The smallest of the units. This is an excellent complement to the larger structures and is ideal for the smaller varieties of sea life.
- Community Reef - (33 total modules) 3 Atlantis, 10 Nautilus, and 20 Aquarius units incorporating 100 individuals' remains. This option is cost effective, yet the individual is part of a large reef. The combination of units creates an ideal reef for large and small creatures alike. The community reef will take up about the size of two basketball courts.
- Certificates - Keepsakes for family. Names, dates, location and inscription.
- Memorial Plaque - A six inch round bronze plaque with name, date, location and inscription can be ordered for you home.
- Dedication and Deployment - Attend the deployment of the memorial reef.

The decision to create an Eternal Reef is very personal. Once the decision is made, the procedure is very simple. Contact your funeral home director.

Eternal Reefs™ are available through authorized Funeral Homes and environmental non-profit organizations. Contact Eternal Reefs™ at 404-966-7333 or at their website - [www.eternalreefs.com](http://www.eternalreefs.com).

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*For more information on ReefBalls,  
access The Reef Ball website at:  
[www.reefball.com](http://www.reefball.com)  
or The Reef Ball Coalition:  
[www.reefballcoalition.org](http://www.reefballcoalition.org)*