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Underwater Burials Offer Final Resting Place Under the Waves

posted 4:37 pm Sun October 05, 2008 - Mount Pleasant, SC
reporter: [Josh Cascio](#) posted by: [Josh Cascio](#)

tags: [eternal reef](#) • [burial](#) • [water](#) • [beach](#)

It was a unique tribute to a unique man. 59 year old John Dean loved fishing and loved being outgoing.



"This is a last adventure for John, he was adventurous and traveled all over the world," said friend Kim Bellamy.

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His final adventure is an eternal dive off the coast. After succumbing to a brain hemorrhage in May the former Air Force veteran's ashes have been solidified in an Eternal Reef monument...

"He would say let me go fishing. just like his plaque says reel 'em in, that's what would want to reel the fish in," said Bellamy.

Today a final viewing ceremony was held for 6 families before their reef monuments are shipped out. It was a chance for families to say a final goodbye.

"Loved the ocean, loved the beach and this is how it all began I think with her love for the water," said Carol Yeager who is burying her sister.

The reefs are not only a sign of the end but also the beginning. Once put underwater they will they provide new homes for sea life.

"I don't think you could do much better than this...just the thought of bringing new life in to life that's passed," Bellamy said.

Tomorrow the reef balls will be taken 3 miles off shore and placed in about 40 feet of water. From that point on they'll be a part of the habitat for the next 500 years

So far more than 100 eternal reefs have been placed off of Charleston's coast.

www.eternalreefs.com

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