Love of environment spurs reef burials

have a reef ball created without the remains, he said. A cofounder of Reef Ball Inc., Brawley’s company developed an artificial reef module in the early 1990s. In 1998, Brawley’s father-in-law was diagnosed with a terminal illness and asked that his remains be mixed into one of the modules and placed on the ocean floor.

Brawley’s father-in-law passed away a few months later and his wish was granted. Other people heard and began making requests.

Since he began creating the memorials, Brawley said there is no real typical customer or family. However, the one common thread that runs between them all is their love of the environment, he said.

Once placed, the reef balls provide a habitat for fish, coral and sponges. “This is a memorial that creates a living legacy for generations to come and that’s very appealing to people,” he said. “People want to do the right thing with their loved ones’ remains and we offer the only environmentally positive burial option.”

Bob Logan, a former Orlando resident, died at age 37 of cancer last year. His wife kept his ashes and the family had been in a quandary over what to do with the remains, said Bob Logan.

One day, Scott Logan’s wife, Becky, spotted a story on Eternal Reefs in the newspaper. “When she sent me a copy of this, we all said this is Scotty,” said Bob Logan, who describes his son’s background as “strictly water.”

“He fished, swam, did scuba diving and was a blue water sailor,” said Bob Logan. “He just loved the water. I know this is where he wants to be.”

When the time comes for Bob and his wife, Mary, the couple have put in their wills that they want their remains mixed into a concrete sphere and placed next to their son’s memorial.

For more information, Eternal Reefs has a web site at www.eternalreefs.com. Memorials are placed inside the reefs, which have been sunk all over the world.