



The final resting place

Save or scatter? Many options for loved one's ashes

By Angela Hill

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As they've done for years, Terry B. and his dad will go to the Sonoma Drag Races again this summer. Only this time, his dad will be going in an urn.

"My dad died in April, and I'm planning to scatter some of his ashes out at the races because that was a big thing we did together," says Terry, 51, of San Jose, who asked that his last name not appear in print — after all, it's illegal to scatter human remains without proper permission, and he doesn't want to get in trouble.

That said, he also plans to scatter a portion at next year's Redwood Run biker rally up north of Eureka — another event the two always shared — plus he will place some on his sister's grave in Southern California and at his grandparents' gravesites in Watsonville.

Terry's dad really gets around.

And legal or not, such a scenario is happening often as more people nix customary burial in favor of cremation — the national rate is about 43 percent, according to the most recent data from the Cremation Association of North America (CANA).

Families are finding increasingly

"You can do pretty much the same services as with traditional burials if you want, but a lot of times people do their own memorial services. They'll go out on yachts and scatter remains, or hold gatherings at restaurants or favorite places."

— Harley Forrey, general manager
Chapel of the Chimes Funeral Home and
Chapel of Memories in Oakland

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