

Andre Webber

Andre Webber, 54, passed away at home on Sept 11, 2014, after a 3-year battle with brain cancer.

Born in New York City, Andre came to the Virgin Islands 36 years ago and so began his passion for the ocean. This unique man, whose gentle heart was as big as his ready laugh, was a Divemaster extraordinaire, a tireless campaigner for the fragile coral reefs, a superb captain, a favorite karaoke host, an advocate for wildlife, a devoted pet owner and an enthusiastic lover of life and its adventures.



Andre was employed in the marine industry for most of his career. He started as a deckhand with Armando Jenik on the M/V Goldilocks, a diver at Coral World and a diving supervisor at the University of the Virgin Islands. Andre was then employed at Atlantis Submarines as a submarine pilot, captain, diver, and then operations manager during the 1990's. He worked on the submarine assembly of TS IX and X for the company. He was also a boat captain and PADI Instructor at St. Thomas Diving Club for many years, a business he would eventually come to own in 2008.

Andre was appointed to numerous V.I. government committees on fisheries and marine industry economic activities. As a founding member of the Reef Ecology Foundation, he was instrumental in the placement of offshore boat moorings around St. Thomas to preserve the surrounding coral reefs.

Over the years Andre worked with numerous film projects and commercials shot in the Virgin Islands as a diver or grip. During one of these shoots he worked with magician David Copperfield, who then invited Andre to join his crew. Andre toured the world with Copperfield's show for two years in the 1980's.

He is survived by his wife and life partner of 33 years, Pam Balash; 5 sisters, Dorothea Bertrand, Maria Webber-Mathew, Katrina Webber, Antonia Webber, and Geana Webber-Richardson; 2 brothers, William Webber Jr. and Stephen Webber; 14 nieces and 10 nephews St. Thomas

family including: Dorthea Bertrand, Winston Taylor, Attallah Bertrand-Rogers, David Rogers Sr., Jashae Joseph, David Rogers Jr., Marion Bertrand; sister in law, Judith Balash Bishop, and many dear friends as his extended family; the St. Thomas Diving Club family past and present, the entire Bolongo Bay and Doumeng family, devoted caregivers, business associates, and many others.

A celebration of life memorial will be held on Nov. 9, 2014, at 2 p.m. on the Heavenly Days located at Bolongo Bay. If desired, memorial donations can be made to the Reef Ecology Foundation PO Box 11564, St. Thomas, VI 00801 or to the St. Thomas Humane Society P.O. Box 8150, St. Thomas, VI 00801.