



Long Haul



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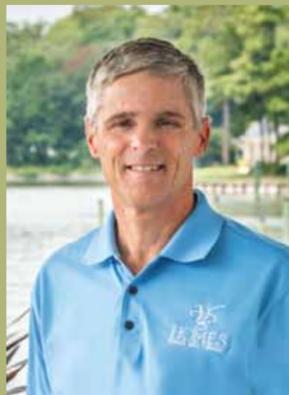
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What a great summer! Our kids are back at college and my wife and I are back to enjoying the "empty nester" life.

We are thankful to be celebrating 26 years in business here at the Beach and blessed to have built and remodeled over 200 homes during that time. We have some exciting projects under construction and some great new home opportunities available now at the Beach!

We are excited to share with you in this issue of VB Homes Living, Bob and Marion Taylor's beautiful home on Linkhorn Bay. We were fortunate to work with the Taylor's six years ago to help design and build this spectacular home.

Our goal is to share with you ideas to inspire your upcoming new home or renovation. We would enjoy the opportunity to meet with you and show you how our unique Design-Build process can help you achieve your goals. Call us today for your complimentary consultation.

See you at the beach!

Chris
chris@vbhomesliving.com

Featuring

Bob & Marion Taylor's Home
908 Cavalier Drive, Virginia Beach

The Bay Colony property Bob & Marion Taylor live on was part of an old hunting club Bob's grandfather purchased in 1935. He nicknamed the original home "Long Haul", reflecting the path of his business career and the property's location away from the tiny bustling Virginia Beach resort. Bob's parents built a second small house on the property in 1951 on the lower section close to Linkhorn Bay at nearly sea level, which Bob and Marion purchased in 1984.



It was a big jump in 2001 when Bob and his wife left friends, family and a business he had grown up in to move to Fort Wayne, Indiana. After 25 years with his family's firm, Taylor's Do-it Centers, Bob was asked to take the top spot with Do it Best Corp. Even as they moved to the heartland, Bob and Marion knew they'd be back in Virginia Beach one day and it took less than two years to start planning.



They quickly realized they needed a new, larger home. "You have to remember, this was pre-Pinterest," said Bob. "We collected photos and images, and created our own 'picture book'." They both favored a graceful, coastal aesthetic with Nantucket-style architecture and a layout that would maximize the water views. An open-floor plan and plenty of bedrooms were mandatory given the large Taylor clan, and low maintenance

yet durable materials would be a necessity for living on a storm-prone waterway. Preparation for a new Long Haul was underway.

While Bob knew VB Homes president Chris Ettel through one of his two brothers, he appreciated that VB Homes' design style matched what he and Marion were looking for. Bob also needed to feel confident and trusting in a contractor since he'd be managing the process from 800 miles away. After meeting with Chris, he knew he'd found the right builder.



The old house was torn down in 2005 and planning focused on fitting the new house on a tight site and setting a solid foundation. Soil tests revealed the need for an extra strong underpinning. Approximately 40 piles were placed into the ground for structural support, ranging from 15-30 feet deep, and cut off to level the house at 10.5 feet above sea level.

Finished in 2007, the home's design and materials reflect the Taylor's desire for a Nantucket style - cedar shake, bead board wainscoting, transoms, rich heart pine flooring, white columns, porch railings and flat roof dormers all communicate a classic coastal feeling. A key feature - the cupola - serves double duty as an exterior design element and a functional skylight for its interior presence in the game room over the garage; its lantern acts as a beacon for visitors to the Long Haul property.

Upon entering the Taylor's new home, a wide hallway is decorated in black and white and faded color photographs from both sides of Bob's and Marion's families, providing a rich storyline of the Taylors' long presence in the historic seaside city. High ceilings throughout the downstairs enlarge the already ample space. An open kitchen flows directly into a gathering room with cozy seating and a built-in sink/bar area. "I spend a lot of time here - it's comfortable and one of my favorite spots in the house," said Bob. One of Marion's beloved spaces is the large living room with windows on three sides and a peaceful palette of white, cream, nautical blue and coral. "I love sitting in here by the window, catching up with girlfriends," said Marion.

A pine paneled study is Bob's early morning retreat, used for handling business correspondence and conference calls before unplugging for the day. The first floor is capped off with a single bedroom, its placement on the main level purposeful to accommodate houseguests or family unable to maneuver stairs.

Soothing blues, greens and pale yellow, reflective of the home's natural surroundings, cover the walls of the four upstairs bedrooms. Bob and Marion's master bedroom, high-ceilinged with an outdoor balcony, features separate his and hers bathrooms ("The key to a lasting marriage," claim Bob and Marion). Overlooking the water, its position and views were mandatory after living in the back of the previous home while their kids enjoyed the bay vistas.



with friends or play foosball.

A wrap-around porch is positioned on the two sides facing the water and includes a single railing on the back stairs, allowing Bob's father to enjoy the views anytime he visits, even when no one is home. The property finally contains a small yard with St. Augustine grass and landscaping using native and salt-water tolerant plants, creating a lush touch with minimal upkeep. An ample dock, now fondly referred to as Taylor Marina, provides plenty of boat slips for the entire family.

Their new 6,500 SF home lets Bob and Marion celebrate the Taylor heritage - the importance of family and togetherness. They've been able to rekindle old traditions like Monday night dinner gatherings for the extended Taylor family, and establish new ones such as annual 4th of July parties and Christmas Eve get-togethers.

As for Long Haul, the original namesake iron sign hangs in the house, reminding visitors of the property's warm history and beckoning for the Taylors' permanent return.

To view more photos of the Taylor's home, please visit our website at www.vbhomesliving.com

