Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Officers' spouses' charitable donations assist community

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

The Yokosuka Officers' Spouses' Club (YOSC) held their annual charities reception at the official residence of Commander 7th Fleet April 29. More than $30,000 was donated to 47 programs and activities and $7,000 in scholarships was awarded to 11 Nile C. Kinnick High School seniors.

"The Yokosuka Officers' Spouses' Club is busy all year long raising money for this community," said Charities Committee Chair Tamara Calandra. "We accomplish this through the efforts of Takusan Treasures, our gift shop and Second Hand Rose, our thrift shop. The employees and many volunteers of these two entities are able to generate substantial funds that we can channel back into the Yokosuka naval community."

The donations will help fund program materials and equipment, protective gear and other supplies that are necessary to ensure residents on the base, especially students, are able to continue to enjoy the myriad programs offered on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka.

YOSC begins accepting applications from potential award recipients at the beginning of every year. Once all applications have been received, an in-depth selection process is conducted by the YOSC charities committee to ensure that the money they bring in throughout the year is put to use in ways that are most beneficial to the base and given to the most deserving individuals.

"We have a charities committee that screens the applications based on all of our requirements. The committee spends a lot of time and attention to make sure that fair and equitable decisions are made," said Calandra.

One of the recipients, Breann Hataishi, who will be an English Major at the University of Pugent Sound in Washington beginning next year, was especially appreciative of what YOSC has done for her and 10 of her other classmates.

"I am so happy," said Hataishi. "I know that I am really lucky to receive a scholarship because there were so many applicants and I am really grateful to YOSC for choosing me. They're sending the scholarship straight to the school so it will help cover the cost of my tuition."

The YOSC is comprised of officer spouses and officer-equivalent civilian spouses working in Yokosuka. In addition to their many activities, one of their major efforts is fund raising for the benefit of local groups and charities.

Tamara Calandra, a member of the Yokosuka Officer' Spouses' Club (YOSC), informs students from Nile C. Kinnick High School of a donation made to their scholarships at a charities receptions held at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka April 29. YOSC donated more than $30,000 to organizations and programs from proceeds earned at their Takusan Treasures gift shop and Second Hand Rose thrift store.
U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Mike Mulcare

"It's a great organization; I encourage all officer spouses to join," said Calandra. "It's a great way to give back to the community, to get to know the community, do a lot of great work and have a lot of fun too."

For individuals interested in joining YOSC or who would like more information about the club, pick up an application at the Officer's Club or Takusan Treasures.

Guided-missile destroyer *Curtis Wilbur* receives Spokane Trophy

By MC3 Andrew Smith,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

The officers and crew of guided-missile destroyer *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54), forward-deployed to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, learned their command was announced as the 2009 Spokane Trophy recipient April 15.

The award recognized the hard work of the ship's 270-plus crew members last year, as they maintained a high level of operational readiness, demonstrated in both training scenarios and real world events.

"Across the board, all awards are very important," said Cmdr. Paul Hogue Jr., *Curtis Wilbur* commanding officer. "It feels good to get the recognition, whether it's the Spokane Trophy or any unit award; it's very important for the crew to get recognition for what they do. It was definitely a team effort. If one division can't support the mission, it affects the whole crew."

The Spokane Trophy is an annual award presented to a Pacific Fleet surface ship with the highest level of operational readiness in areas ranging from coordinated air warfare, surface warfare and undersea warfare operations.

"We supported the command mission by making sure the ship stayed as ready as we could make it," said Damage Controlman 1st Class Kevin Christopher, repair division's leading petty officer. "It helps our morale by letting us know that we are appreciated."

The Spokane Trophy dates back to 1907, when the Spokane Washington Chamber of Commerce worked with the city's Spanish War Veterans to commission the construction of the trophy to honor Spokane Sailors. The trophy, crafted from 400 ounces of silver, is worth nearly $4 million. In 1908, it was first awarded to *USS Tennessee* for superior marksmanship. The annual award was halted in 1941 prior to World War II and resumed again in 1984. *Curtis Wilbur* is the 34th ship to be named as the Spokane Trophy winner in the award's history.

***USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) steams through the Pacific Ocean with Mount Fuji in the background during a photo exercise Nov. 21. It was announced April 15 that *Curtis Wibur* is the Spokane Trophy recipient for 2009.**
U.S. Navy file photo by MCSN Adam K. Thomas

"I spent a lot of my time tracking contacts and participating in training scenarios," said Operations Specialist Seaman Rasha Urtecho. "It is an accomplishment, we worked really hard and everybody made sacrifices. It's recognition for all the work that we did."

USS Curtis Wilbur participated in various training exercises in 2009, showcasing the interoperability between the U.S. Navy and partner nations. The crew put its training to good use, turning potential into outstanding performance while working alongside Republic of Korea navy counterparts in exercise Foal Eagle 09 and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force sailors during ANNUALEX (Annual Exercise).

"I have always known we have an outstanding crew and this award just validates that," said Hogue. "I think that this was an outstanding accomplishment and a lot of hard work went into it."

USS Curtis Wilbur is one of seven Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers assigned to Destroyer Squadron 15.

INSIDE

The Sullivans School students walk for Haiti relief

Students from The Sullivans School at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka held a walk-a-thon to raise money for the Haiti relief fund May 1.

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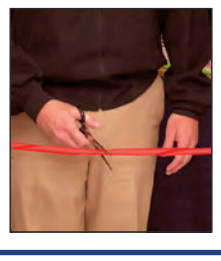

USNH laboratory renovations equal enhanced services

U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka recently completed renovations in its laboratory, bringing to a close, a three-month project to improve laboratory services.

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