Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Negishi Housing invites local children for Halloween

Photo and story by MC2(SW/AW) John Smolinski, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Negishi Housing Detachment officer-in-charge invited students from Ishikawa Elementary School to participate in a trick-or-treat Halloween party in Negishi Oct. 31.

A total of 93 costumed children and their parents attended the party which included gift bags and snacks and then ended with the children trick-or-treating.

"Every year we support some of the local schools and orphanages and we take them around Negishi and show them some part of the American culture," said Lt. Asa Kim, Negishi officer-in-charge. "This event we are happy to have the kids from Ishikawa Elementary."

With homemade costumes of witches, devils and police officers, the children were excited and ready to learn what Halloween was all about.

"Halloween is a great opportunity for us as a military community to interact with our Japanese neighbors and show them some of our customs and traditions that we have back in the (United) States," said Negishi Assistant Officer-in-Charge Chief Logistics Specialist De'Andre Allen.

The officer-in-charge serves as liaison with higher and lower levels of military authority within and outside the command and with Japanese government officials.

"This is just one event that we do with the local children," said Allen. "We also work with a local orphanage and have craft days at Byrd Elementary School, and pool parties during the summer and we will be seeing a lot of these kids again in December for the lighting of the Christmas tree and the holiday rock-n-roll show."

Negishi's Navy housing community is nestled in the middle of the city of Yokohama and consists of 387 military housing units with more than 2,000 residents.

"I really love the interaction between the base and the Japanese community," said Allen. "And the best part is that my kids get to share in this experience."

The evening was an experience that the kids will remember for a long time.

"Our youngest 3-year-old daughter is still happy and occasionally says 'trick-or-treat'," said one of the parents in attendance. "All our three daughters keep the candy they got that night preciously, and eat them little by little asking their mother 'Can I eat this today?'"

"I can imagine that other children who participated in that night may feel the same way as my kids and have good memories," said another participating parent. "Some of the kids, including our children, might be frightened going to bathroom at night as they remember the scene of the big guy jumping into the crowd with the chainsaw."

Children from Ishikawa Elementary School trick-or-treat around the Negishi housing detachment Oct. 31. The children were invited by Negishi's officer-in-charge to participate in a Halloween party on base to introduce the children to a bit of American culture.

"It was a valuable experience," said Akinaga Hiramura, chairperson, Ishikawa Elementary School Daddy Association. "We sincerely appreciate the Negishi OIC that we get invited for two years in row."

CFAY Environmental dedicates new historical monument

Story and Photo by Paul Long, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), dedicated a new historical monument commemorating Berth 12 Oct. 31.

According to CFAY Environmental Director Jack Gilbertsen, the monument is part of the cultural and natural resource preservation mission of CFAY Environmental. "We try and preserve and promote our culture so that it doesn't end up being lost,'' he said. "We're very proud of our cultural history."

According to CFAY Public Works Officer Cmdr. Steve Stasick, the stones were found in 2005 during the construction to enlarge the pier area prior to the arrival of the *USS George Washington* (CVN 73).

"The stones are from 1915, from the (Japanese) Imperial Navy, when they owned that berth," he said.

In those days, the area was known as the Koumi Seawall.

The monument's original granite stones flank two aerial photos of the Berth 12 area, circa 1952 and 1963.

The inscription on the left stone is as follows: From 1881 – 1915, new berths and a seawall were constructed in Koumi Bay to support the expansion of the Yokosuka Naval Shipyard requirements.

In 1908, the west side of Koumi Berth (currently berths 8/9) was completed.

In 1911, a 200-ton land crane was imported from England and installed at the end of what is now Berth 8/9.

Construction of the east side of Koumi Berth (currently Berth 12) ran from 1912 – 1915.

In 2005, during an upgrade to Berth 12, these engraved memorial stones were discovered.

CFAY Public Works Officer Cmdr. Steve Stasick makes his remarks during the dedication of the Berth 12 monument Oct 31. The monument commemorates completion of the Berth 12 area in 1915.

The large stone commemorates completion of the seawall portion on the east side of the Koumi Berth in June 1915.

The smaller stone provides the names of three engineers and one storekeeper who contributed to the construction projects.

The remnants of, cargo crane foundation and the memorial stones are historical reminders of Koumi Bay.

Construction of the monument was done by Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMBC) 24 assigned to Public Works Self Help Department.

According to one of the Seabees that worked on the project, BU2 (SCW/EXW) Mark Wells, thaking part in the contruction of the monument was a meaningful experience.

"I always take pride in my work. I can always look back and say, wow, my hands were a part of that construction."

According to a representative from NMBC 24, the project took just under a month encompassing 320-man hours with a four-man crew average and at a cost of $11,167.00.

Gilbertsen also said that this monument will be added to the base's educational tour with the other monuments on base.

The monument is located next to the automated teller machines at the Nimitz Boulevard and Howard Street intersection.

INSIDE

Freaks come out at night for USNH Haunted Hospital

USNH Yokosuka opened the doors of their Haunted Hospital to the CFAY base community for the third-straight year Oct. 28.

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KHS student golfer selected for Japanese national team

CFAY Nile C. Kinnick High School (KHS) has no golf team, but that didn't stop Kavan Eubank, a KHS student, from being selected to the Japanese national golf team.

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