(Left) Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Commanding Officer Capt. David Owen and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Yokosuka Director Amy Lacaria cut the cake during the NMCRS Volunteer Awards and Recognition Ceremony held at the Chief Petty Officer's Club Jan. 7.

Photo by Yuji Kawabe

(Left) CFAY D.A.R.E. (Drugs Abuse Resistance Education) Officer MA2 Patricia Mitchell holds up a check presented to her by Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Branch 103 President Jon Oliver during a branch meeting Jan. 5. D.A.R.E. will use the money to fund supplies, prizes and graduation ceremonies for children who complete the D.A.R.E. course at The Sullivans and Richard E. Byrd elementary schools. The FRA Branch 103 donates thousands of dollars a year to local organizations to help foster a stronger and more secure community.

Photo by Dan Bowen

Citizens of Yokosuka gather at the Yokosuka Arena to celebrate Coming of Age Day Jan. 10. Coming of Age Day is a Japanese national holiday and celebrates the passage from child to adult and encompasses citizens who have turned 20 years old in the past year.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Mikey Mulcare

The Sullivans Elementary School students Matthew Kuntzman, Sa'Nayvia King and Anaijah Stinyard in Judith Goto's second-grade class celebrate the Japanese New Year by practicing the ancient art of calligraphy.

Photo by Yukie Bridges

Pet of the week

The Pet of the week this week is Gilbert. This handsome orange and white feline has an outgoing personality and would love a home full of activity. He loves affection and will keep your lap warm all winter long! Gilbert has been waiting for his forever family - is it you? To find out more about Gilbert or any animal at Pets Are Worth Saving (P.A.W.S.), contact them at 243-9996, by e-mail to usskittytalk.yokosuka@gmail.com or visit the P.A.W.S. website at www.pawsyokosukajapan.com.

Photo courtesy of P.A.W.S.

Konnichiwa

CFAY Command Evaluation Office Financial Management Analyst Barbara Mark sings "*Amazing Grace*" for Japanese guests during a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday event at the Cultural Exchange Center Jan. 13.

Photo by Yuji Kawabe

Where is your home town? De Ridder, La.

How long have you been in Japan? Two years.

What is your favorite food? Seafood.

What is your life goal? To share my singing and music experiences with the world, hoping one day the world will see and feel God's love around them.