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# CFAY

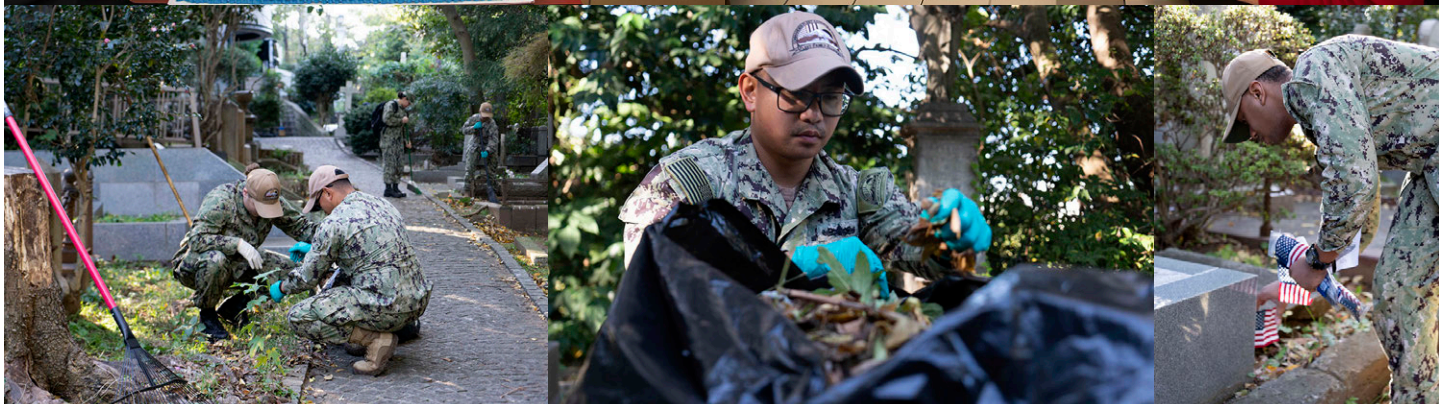
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## This Week at Fleet Activities Yokosuka



Photos by Ryo Isobe, Tetsuya Morita and MC2 Conner Houghtaling, CFAY Public Affairs

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# AROUND CFAY



## CFAY Celebrates Yokosuka's Naval History at 70<sup>th</sup> Verny-Oguri Memorial

**Story by Garrett Cole, CFAY Public Affairs**

The 70<sup>th</sup> Verny-Oguri Memorial Ceremony, a blend of historical reflection and modern military diplomacy, was held at Yokosuka City's Verny Park, commemorating the pivotal contributions of François Léonce Verny and Oguri Kozukenosuke Tadamasa to Japan's naval modernization. This landmark event, attended by prominent leaders such as Rear Adm. Carl Lahti, Commander, Navy Region Japan; Rear Admiral Christopher J. Cavanaugh, Commander, Submarine Group Seven; and Capt. Les Sobol, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, underscored the enduring legacy of the Yokosuka Arsenal, a symbol of Franco-Japanese cooperation.

Mayor Katsuaki Kamiji of Yokosuka paid tribute to the historical figures: "This ceremony honors the achievements of Kozukenosuke Tadamasa Oguri and François Léonce Verny, who devoted themselves to the construction of the Yokosuka Arsenal and contributed greatly to the development of modern Japan," Kamiji stated.

François Léonce Verny, a French naval engineer, was instrumental in directing the construction of the Yokosuka Naval Shipyard and Arsenal in the late 19th century, completing the construction of Japan's first dry dock in 1871. His expertise in modern naval architecture and engineering, honed in the arsenals of France, was pivotal in introducing advanced shipbuilding techniques to Japan.

Oguri Kozukenosuke Tadamasa, a visionary statesman of the Tokugawa government, recognized the urgency of modernizing Japan's naval capabilities. His decision to construct the Yokosuka Arsenal, in collaboration with Verny, marked a significant leap in Japan's journey towards industrialization and military strength.

H.E. Ambassador Philippe Setton, French Ambassador to Japan, reflected on the deep-seated relationship forged through this collaboration: "The establishment of the

Yokosuka Naval Arsenal was a major influence on the relationship between our two nations that extended across the military, technological, and industrial sectors," Setton remarked.

Yoko Kamikawa, Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, acknowledged the historical significance of Verny and Oguri's partnership: "We owe the present-day cooperation we enjoy between our two nations to those who came before us, to the collaborative spirit of Verny and Oguri," Kamikawa said.

Fortuné Pellicano, Deputy Mayor of Brest, highlighted the role of international cooperation in fostering peace: "Our mutual understanding, our collaboration, sharing our ways of doing things, and the cultural exchange between our young people, these all form the foundation which shows that we can be architects of a peaceful world," Pellicano observed.

The ceremony not only commemorated the achievements of Verny and Oguri but also served as a reaffirmation of the enduring Franco-Japanese partnership in naval strategy and broader international relations. The presence of critical U.S. Navy and other military leaders underlined the ceremony's significance in contemporary naval affairs, symbolizing a legacy that continues to inspire and guide modern maritime cooperation.

For more than 75 years, CFAY has provided, maintained, and operated base facilities and services in support of the U.S. 7th Fleet's forward-deployed naval forces, tenant commands, and thousands of military and civilian personnel and their families.

**Cup O' Joe  
with the CO**

**November 29 8-9am**  
**Party Room at Nikko Tower**  
Free Coffee and Pastry

**IKEGO**  
DETACHMENT