



Pictured L-R are: NCOA Chairman of the Board CMSgt Gerald Morey, Dr. Julio Araujo and SGM (Ret) Michael Jones of Doc-Development, Sgt Shawn Henson, Lily-Ann Henson, SgtMaj Michael Pritchard representing the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlos Ruiz.

The 2023 NCOA Marine Corps Vanguard Award, sponsored by Doc-Development, Inc. was presented to Sergeant Shawn B. Henson in honor and memory of Medal of Honor recipient Corporal Larry L. Maxam, U.S. Marine Corps.

Sergeant Shawn B. Henson is recognized for outstanding heroic actions while off duty during exercise Red Flag Nellis 2022.

Sergeant Henson responded to a fire alarm sounding in the hotel where he and his team of eight Marines were lodged. After being told by an employee that it was a false alarm, Sergeant Henson followed his instinct and walked the hotel to ensure everything was in order. Upon reaching the laundry room, Sergeant Henson found that a light had shorted out and ignited the ceiling on fire. He selflessly worked to put the fire out by throwing water and wet towels on the flames. After attempting to slow the flames, Sergeant Henson was able to contact an employee and instructed him to get fire extinguishers. Sergeant Henson and the employee were able to stop the existing fire and evacuated the building. This facilitated the safety of the eight Marines staying in the hotel, as well as all other hotel guests until the fire department arrived and dealt with the cause of the fire.

Sergeant Henson's intuition and quick actions resulted in a much faster evacuation and response to the fire, directly resulting in avoiding the loss of life or serious injury.

Sergeant Henson's initiative, selflessness, and heroic actions reflected credit on himself and the United States Marine Corps.