



Pictured L-R are: Gino Montagno from USAA, Cedric and Idalia Johnson, LS3 Adriene Johnson, FORCM PatrickPaul Mangaran representing the 16th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Honea, CMDCM Duane Jerry, and NCOA Chairman of the Board Robert Barnett.

The 2024 NCOA Navy Vanguard Award, sponsored by USAA, was presented to Logistics Specialist Third Class Adriene M. Johnson in honor and memory of Medal of Honor recipient Machinist Mate First Class Robert R. Scott.

On 16 April 2023, LS3 Johnson was visiting Biloxi, Mississippi near her permanent duty station in Gulfport, Mississippi. She and a friend planned to participate in Biloxi spring break 2023, the 13th annual celebration of an event that consists of concerts, beach parties, and other social events that draw tens of thousands of visitors to the area.

After arriving at the event, LS3 Johnson and her friend found themselves surrounded by a very large crowd of people and numerous law enforcement officers. They had happened upon several groups of people producing music videos in a parking lot and tensions between the groups appeared to be escalating quickly. Becoming uncomfortable with the scene, she and her friend decided to leave the area. While LS3 Johnson was moving away, someone fired multiple gunshots from roughly ten feet in front of LS3 Johnson and her friend, with bullets striking in her immediate vicinity. She stood fast as the surrounding crowds rushed past her and conducted a quick safety assessment of the area. The rush of the fleeing crowd left multiple people lying on the ground trampled. Within less than a minute another individual fired a gun somewhere close behind her. With the full gravity of the situation setting in, LS3 Johnson grabbed her friend and sought cover across the street.

While seeking cover and attempting to escape the immediate danger, she saw an individual carrying a female across the street. The woman had suffered a gunshot wound and was bleeding severely; because all law enforcement officers on scene were busy addressing the immediate danger of the shooting, no one was caring for the victim. Without hesitation, LS3 Johnson rushed back to the shooting victim to provide immediate care with little regard for her own personal safety. Arriving at the victim, she began to administer trauma care. Her recent military training in tactical combat casualty care was in full effect as she simultaneously worked to calm the victim and apply pressure to a life-threatening wound. Quickly noticing the continued bleeding, she tore the pant leg off the victim using it as a tourniquet applied to the upper thigh of the victim's right leg. With the victim in agony, LS3 Johnson continued to provide first aid until a law enforcement officer approached with a medical grade tourniquet. The officer applied the tourniquet too high up on the victim's hip and thigh area. The officer then began to apply another tourniquet to the victim just below the first. LS3 Johnson noticed the incorrect placement and relayed correct tourniquet procedures to assist the officer.

As another large crowd of people began fleeing the area the officer told LS3 Johnson that they needed to conserve the medical supplies for other gunshot victims. LS3 Johnson was now fully aware of the sheer size of the chaos and once again relied on her military training and courage to persevere in the face of danger. The officer recognized her training and abilities and asked how to go about removing the tourniquet so they could save others. She directed the officer to remove the highest tourniquet. At that point the officer rushed off to assist others, leaving LS3 Johnson in charge of the victim and the immediate area. She then looked up and realized that two male gunshot victims had made their way over, so she set up a make-shift triage center. Now surrounded by panicked civilians recording her every move, she noticed that one of the males had a tourniquet applied to his upper thigh just above a deep gunshot wound on his upper leg while the other was bleeding from his foot. She then turned her full attention back to the female, noticing she had started to go into shock, screaming for her family, and pleading for the life of her unborn child.

She continued to rely on her training and administered first aid while attempting to maintain control of the situation until the paramedics were able to take over the chaotic environment. Before leaving to clean herself up, LS3 Johnson made sure to relay all vital information to the first responders as they loaded the victims onto gurneys and into the awaiting ambulances.

The unselfish actions of LS3 Johnson to assist fellow event patrons reflect great credit upon herself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.