



*L-R NCOA President Vincent Patton, CSM Michael Crosby, SGT Antonio T. Adams, Mr. Gino Montagno (USAA), NCOA Chairman of the Board Terry Haines.*

The NCOA Army Vanguard Award is presented in honor and recognition of Medal of Honor recipient Corporal Alvin C. York. The recipient of the 2019 NCOA Army Vanguard Award, sponsored by USAA, is Sergeant Antonio Adams.

Sergeant Antonio Adams, United States Army, distinguished himself through exceptionally meritorious heroism in the conduct of life-saving evacuation procedures of seven civilians from a burning building in the vicinity of village east apartments in Franklin, Ohio, on the morning of 28 July 2018. While relaxing in his residence at approximately 1130 in the morning, Sergeant Adams was alerted by loud banging at his door. Upon answering, a fellow resident informed him that the adjacent structure was on fire and everyone was evacuating the apartment complex for safety. Without hesitation, Sergeant Adams complied with the directive and proceeded to the vicinity of the burning structure to see if he could provide any assistance with evacuation.

Upon arriving at the entrance of the burning building, Sergeant Adams found that there were three apartments on the ground floor with five residents inside and one cat. Sergeant Adams immediately alerted them of the fire danger and escorted them out of the building. After successfully doing this, Sergeant Adams noticed an elderly couple, who appeared to be stranded in a second story apartment. With no regard for life threatening temperatures inside the unit, he began to scale the outside of the structure, hoisting himself to the next floor by climbing exterior balconies. Sergeant Adams reached the balcony of the trapped couple and found that the exterior screen door was locked.

He was able to force the door open and reach the elderly couple, escorting them out onto the balcony and lowering them safely to the ground floor to be treated by emergency services. During the process of climbing and forcing open the door, Sergeant Adams sustained a laceration to his right hand which required a total of six stitches to close.

Sergeant Adams interacted with emergency services upon arrival to the site, providing them with information about the actions he completed and the rooms he cleared. His injuries were treated and he informed his chain of command of the incident.

Without question, Sergeant Adam's personal example of bravery, selfless service and prompt, decisive actions are consistent with the greatest traditions of our uniformed services and played a pivotal role in saving the lives of seven people. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect distinct credit upon himself, his command, and the United States Army.