

Rick Hopcraft Memorial Veterans' Scholarship 2022 Recipient



Spencer Johnson

A U.S. Navy Veteran, Spencer will use his scholarship to pursue his Business degree at UC Irvine.

Commander Spencer Johnson graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY, in 1991 with a B.S. in Marine Transportation and U.S.C.G. Third Mate License. He spent a year sailing as Third Mate on the SS Cape Nome. Spencer then entered maritime business, focused on transportation logistics and safety, until 2010, when he joined the Theater Security Cooperation Group in Singapore.

Spencer coordinated between the US Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy and Royal Thai Navy, ensuring the partners were maximizing their joint operations and capabilities. After more private transportation business experience, Commander Johnson joined the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet, serving as the Officer in Charge of a thirty-three-person team conducting operations in the Strait of Hormuz and Yemen Humanitarian Aid. Spencer has throughout his career been a reservist for Military Sealift Command and Naval Cooperation and Guidance of Shipping and served active duty in Singapore and Bahrain.

"I plan on using my business degree to improve my performance at work and look towards other opportunities in finance and real estate. This scholarship will assist me through financial backing and recognition. The experience with the work required to get my degree will drive success in my future."