

GATOR RECON

University of Florida Association of Military Alumni newsletter for Gator veterans and UF military-affiliated alumni

July 2026

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Building the Next Chapter

President's Message | FY2026



Curt "Kibbles" Ebitz
President

"The greatest legacy we can leave is an organization that is stronger, more sustainable, and more relevant than when we inherited it."

Fellow Gators,

As we begin a new fiscal year, I want to thank each of you for your continued commitment to the University of Florida Association of Military Alumni (UFAMA). Over the past year, we built meaningful momentum by strengthening our scholarship endowment, expanding partnerships across the University of Florida, increasing our visibility within the Gator military community, and laying the foundation for long-term success. Now, FY2026 is our opportunity to transform that momentum into lasting impact.

FY2026 is more than another year on the calendar, it marks the beginning of our next chapter. This is the year we transition from building an organization to building an institution.

Our vision is bold, but achievable: to establish UFAMA as one of the premier military alumni associations in America. We will not define success simply by the number of events we host, but by the lives we impact, the students we empower, the careers we help launch, the partnerships we cultivate, and the legacy we leave for future generations of military-connected Gators.

Our theme for the year is “One Team. One Mission. One Legacy” and it captures the spirit that will guide everything we do. Every board member, volunteer, donor, sponsor, and member has an important role in advancing our mission to Honor, Support, Engage, and Sustain the Gator military community.

This year our priorities are straightforward and ambitious. We will grow our scholarship endowment and operating support to ensure a financially sustainable future. We will expand membership and deepen engagement with ROTC cadets, student veterans, military families, alumni, and supporters. We will continue to enhance OPLIGN as a signature career-development resource, connecting our members with meaningful professional opportunities. We will modernize our digital presence, tell the stories of the remarkable men and women who make up the Gator Nation That Serves, and strengthen partnerships with UFAA, the Collegiate Veterans Success Center, ROTC units, Gator Clubs, employers, and veteran-supportive organizations.

At its heart, UFAMA is about people. It is about honoring those who have worn the uniform, supporting those who continue to serve, investing in the next generation of leaders, and ensuring that no military-connected Gator ever walks alone. Every scholarship awarded, every new member welcomed, every partnership formed, and every life positively influenced strengthens the foundation we are building together. Every initiative we undertake should answer one simple question: Does this strengthen UFAMA for the next generation?

I believe the greatest legacy we can leave is an organization that is stronger, more sustainable, and more relevant than when we inherited it. That legacy, however, belongs to all of us. It will be built by the countless acts of generosity, mentorship, volunteerism, leadership, and service demonstrated by members across the Gator Nation.

As we begin this new fiscal year, I invite you to become part of that legacy. Stay connected. Mentor a student. Support our scholarship efforts. Introduce another military-connected Gator to UFAMA. Share our story. Together, we will ensure that

the lifelong home for military-connected Gators continues to grow stronger with each passing year.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission and to one another. The future of UFAMA has never been brighter, and I am honored to serve alongside each of you as we write the next chapter in our history.

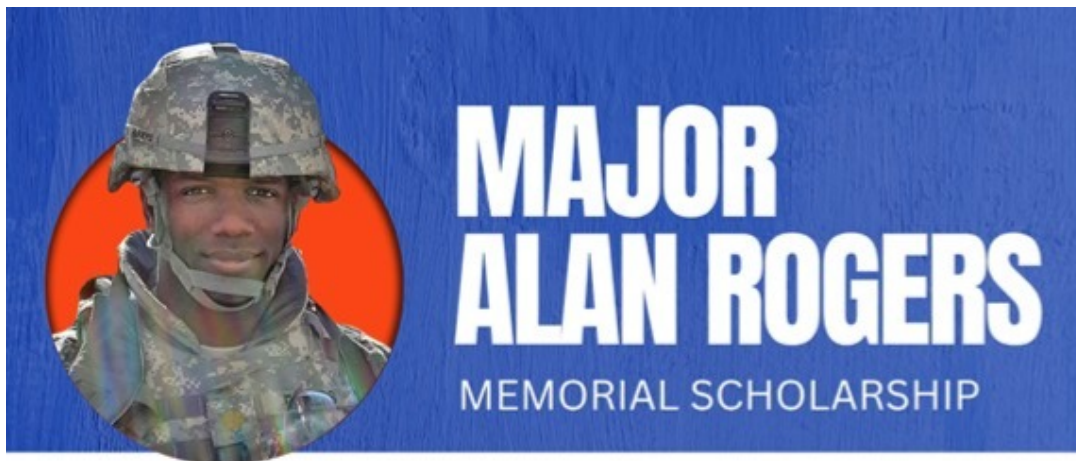
One Team. One Mission. One Legacy.

Go Gators!

Curt “Kibbles” Ebitz

President, University of Florida Association of Military Alumni

UFAMA names 2025 MAJ Alan Rogers Scholarship Recipient



Congratulations to **Ezequiel Serrano** on his selection as the 2025 MAJ Alan Rogers Scholarship Recipient! The \$1,000 scholarship honors the life and legacy of MAJ Rogers, who was killed in Iraq on January 27, 2008.

UF's Association of Military Alumni, Association of Black Alumni, and Association of LGBTQ+ Alumni joined forces in 2025 to honor [MAJ Rogers](#), share his inspirational story, and support a new generation of Gators.

Happy 250th Birthday, America!

On the occasion of America's 250th anniversary, the University of Florida Association of Military Alumni honors the generations of Gators who have served, defended and strengthened our country since its earliest days. ❤️🇺🇸❤️



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