



## From Curt “Kibbles” Ebitz, President, UF Association of Military Alumni

Happy New Year, Gators!

I hope the start of 2026 finds you energized and proud because the University of Florida Association of Military Alumni (UFAMA) is entering this year with more momentum, more purpose, and more opportunity than ever before. UFAMA exists for one reason: to honor, support, and unite Gator military alumni, students, families and military-affiliated in a lasting community of service and connection.

This past November, we closed out 2025 together by celebrating “The Gator Nation That Serves” at our UFAMA Awards & Hall of Fame Dinner; a powerful reminder that although we come from different branches and generations, we share a common heart for service and for each other. That evening highlighted the strength of our legacy. As we build upon 2025, 2026 will be a year of action, impact, and growth.

### **Investing in the Future — Expanded Scholarships**

We are shifting from early success to enduring influence. Our focus this year is clear: Empower. Connect. Invest. That starts with our most important responsibility of supporting the next generation of Gator leaders.

In 2025, UFAMA proudly awarded scholarships to military-affiliated students who will go on to lead in service, their communities, and beyond. That was just the beginning. In 2026, we are launching our most ambitious scholarship effort to date:

- Launching expanded UFAMA self-funded scholarships for ROTC students, student veterans, and military family members
- Strengthening the Major Alan Rogers Memorial Scholarship ensuring his

legacy continues to shape lives

- Expanding donor opportunities so every member can help shape the next generation of leaders

Scholarships are more than financial assistance — they are a direct investment in the future of Gator military excellence. This is how we preserve our legacy, by investing in the future.

### **Introducing OPLIGN — Career Access at Zero Cost**

This year we're also tackling one of the biggest challenges our members face after graduation or transition; career opportunity and access. UFAMA is excited to introduce a powerful solution called OPLIGN, a zero-cost, fully automated platform that:

- Matches members instantly to internships and jobs from 10,000+ employers
- Uses a data-resume to highlight military skills and experience
- Helps alumni and employers connect directly where 85% of real hiring occurs
- Allows UFAMA-affiliated employers to post roles and immediately reach our network

This partnership directly advances our mission to support, engage, and sustain the success of Gator military alumni. And best of all, it's free for our members. More information and sign-up instructions can be found on our [website](#) under the resources link.

### **Strengthening Our Network — Nationwide**

In 2026, we are strengthening UFAMA's impact by expanding our reach, deepening our connections, and ensuring the long-term success of the Gator Nation that serves. Our goal is to continue to:

- Elevate the visibility of UFAMA across the university and veteran communities
- Expand partnerships with ROTC, UF Student Veterans, and alumni groups nationwide
- Grow digital engagement spotlighting Gators who serve and opening new doors for connection
- Build the financial resiliency required to sustain UFAMA for generations to come

Every initiative is designed to honor those who served while lifting those who will. Our network is not just a community, it is a force multiplier.

### **Your Role in Our Mission**

Every one of us has worn a uniform or supported someone who has. We know that

service doesn't end when the uniform comes off as it simply takes on new meaning. So this year, we invite all UFAMA members to consider:

- Volunteer to join one of our committees
- Support our scholarship campaign
- Share or post opportunities in OPLIGN
- Bring another Gator into the Association

Because when one Gator succeeds, the whole Gator Nation gets stronger.

Thank you for the passion, heart, and integrity you bring to our mission. Together, we are building something worthy of those who came before us and transformative for those who will follow. Here's to 2026 — a year of purpose, connection, and impact!

Go Gators!

**Curt “Kibbles” Ebitz**

President, University of Florida Association of Military Alumni

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