

# GATOR RECON

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

June 2026

[www.gatormilitary.org](http://www.gatormilitary.org)



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## UFAMA Announces 2026 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the five incoming UF freshmen who earned \$1,000 scholarship awards from UFAMA:

- **Mia Alford**
- **Sadie Graber**
- **Victoria McKenna**
- **Kaitlin Patungao**
- **Patrick Phy**

“These scholarships represent UFAMA’s commitment to supporting the next generation of Gator leaders,” said Curt “Kibbles” Ebitz, UFAMA president. “We are honored to recognize these outstanding students and look forward to seeing the impact they will make at the University of Florida and beyond.”

Now in its second year, the UFAMA scholarship program competitively awards five scholarships each year to eligible students with military, veteran, Department of War and/or ROTC affiliations — as well as those who have been meaningfully influenced or inspired by military service.

Details on the 2027 scholarship nomination process will be posted early next year on our [website](#) once the nomination window opens in the spring. For additional

information, contact [scholarships@gatormilitary.org](mailto:scholarships@gatormilitary.org).

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# Annual Award Nominations Now Open!

UFAMA is now accepting nominations for our annual awards program and our prestigious Alumni Hall of Fame. **Nominations are due Aug. 3, 2026.**

Let's stand up and holler for military-affiliated Gators who have made a difference in these categories:

- UFAMA Hall of Fame
- Veteran of the Year
- Servicemember of the Year
- Reservist Member of the Year
- DOW Civilian of the Year
- Family Member of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement

Visit this [site](#) for online nomination instructions (note: to be eligible, nominees must be current [UFAA](#) members).

More than 130 military-affiliated alumni, family members and friends attended last year's Alumni Hall of Fame banquet in Gainesville.

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## SAVE THE DATE: Military Reunion Weekend, Nov. 6-7

Consider yourself invited to reconnect with UFAMA members, friends and family (and share your favorite war stories from your 6-month "deployment" to MacDill Air Force Base) Nov. 6-7 in Gainesville.

The reunion will be held in conjunction with the University of Florida Athletics Department's annual "Saluting Those Who Serve" festivities that are designed to honor individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to serving the nation and their communities.

Join us for the awards dinner at Emerson Hall Nov. 6, stay for the full weekend, or just catch the Gators take on the University of Oklahoma at The Swamp on Nov. 7.

**Lesson Learned from last reunion: *Semper Gumby.***

Additional details and a full weekend agenda will be shared as they become available.

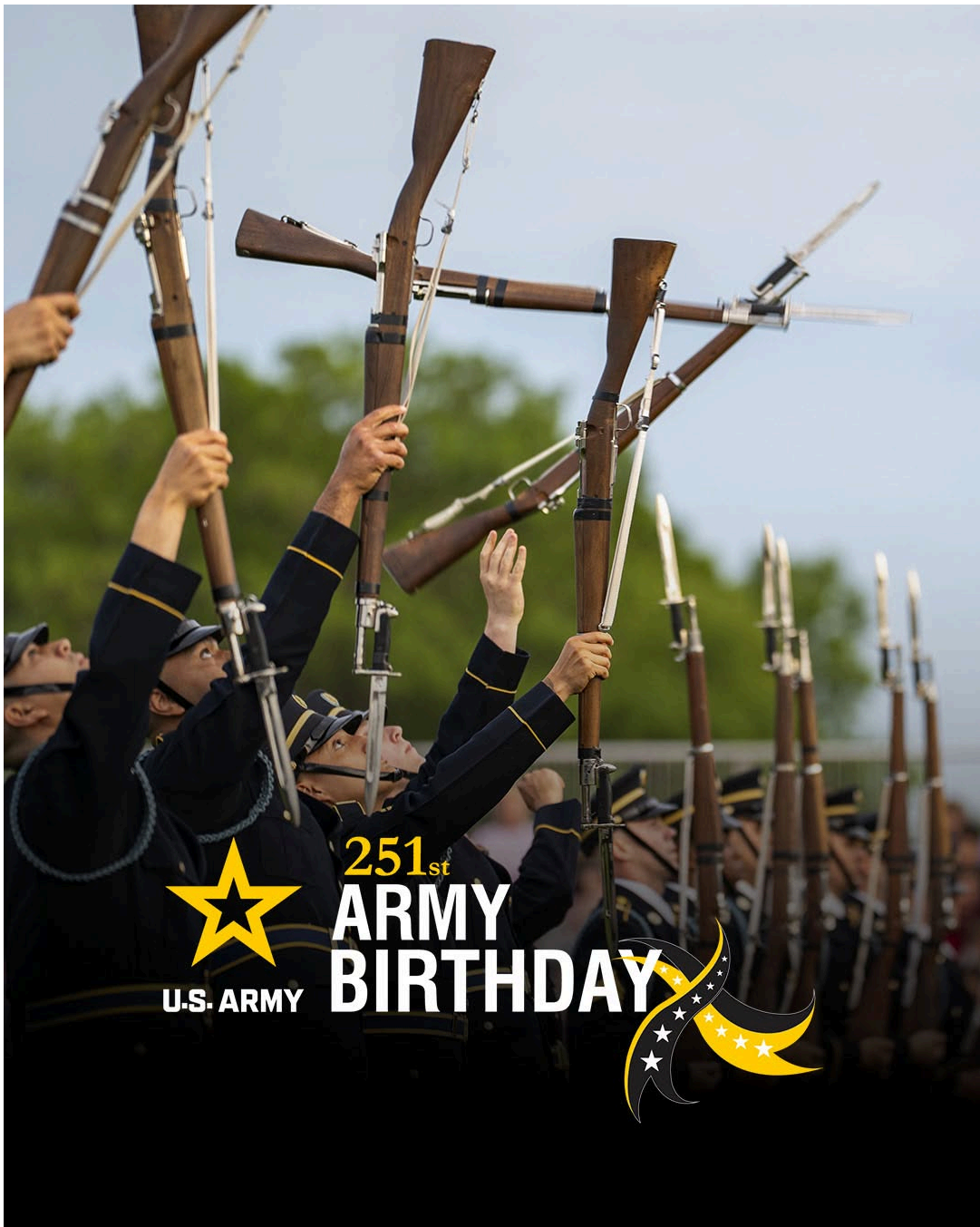
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## Happy Birthday to the U.S. Army!

UFAMA proudly recognizes the U.S. Army's 251st birthday and all members of the Gator Nation, both past and present, who have strengthened the Army team—Soldiers, Army Civilians and the families who stand beside them.

Your leadership, resilience and commitment to service embody the best of both the Army and the University of Florida. Whether serving on the front lines, enabling missions behind the scenes or supporting loved ones through every challenge, you represent the Gator spirit with distinction.

Thank you for your dedication, sacrifice and steadfast service.



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## Nikki Glaser to headline at Gator Growl, tickets on sale

The UF Alumni Association and the 2026 Gator Growl team announced that comedian Nikki Glaser will perform at Gator Growl this October.

Purchase [tickets](#) now and learn more about Gator Growl, UF Homecoming and associated events. **Alumni are eligible to use the code “albert” when purchasing up to 4 tickets.**

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