

‘Your Future Self Will Thank You’

From the Army to Arizona State: Veteran Dominick Kuczynski uses the VFW's Help A Hero Scholarship to launch a career in behavioral health counseling

Nov 25, 2025

Dominick Kuczynski, 33, and his wife, Alexandra, live in Prescott, Arizona, with their three dogs, Kenobi, Kasia and Kingsley. Before settling in the Southwest, Kuczynski served in the Army for 14 years.

“I decided to join because I believed in helping and protecting others that needed assistance,” he said.

Kuczynski has that same mentality when it comes to his education and career in behavioral health counseling.

“I know what it’s like to face struggles and come out stronger, and I want to help others find that same strength,” he said. “Watching people rebuild their lives is incredibly inspiring, and I want to be part of that process.”

Kuczynski found the VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” while searching for aid online and applied to help offset the costs of school.

“To the generous donors who made this scholarship possible — thank you,” he said. “Your generosity has not only provided for me financially, but it has also reaffirmed my commitment to pursuing a career dedicated to helping others. This award motivates me to work harder, strive further and pay forward the kindness I’ve received.”

Kuczynski is pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in counseling and applied psychology, with an emphasis in substance abuse and addiction, at Arizona State University.

“After graduation, I want to work as a clinician in behavioral health, but my ultimate dream,” he said, “is to earn a Master of Social Work (MSW) and become a licensed clinical social worker. Then, I’ll have the tools I need to make a real difference in people’s lives and

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help them move forward toward the futures they deserve.

“I want to show others, especially veterans, that it’s never too late to turn things around. There’s always hope for a brighter future.”

Kuczynski encourages other veterans who are considering going to school to “take the leap and go for it.” He insists that there are resources to help and that veterans are already equipped with many of the tools they need to succeed.

“Many schools have veteran support centers, advisors and mental health counselors. Don’t hesitate to seek out the help that’s available to you,” he said. “You’re not alone. Don’t let self-doubt hold you back. You’ve already proven your ability to overcome challenges. This is just one more mission your future self will thank you for accomplishing.”

[Learn more](#) about the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship."