

Eric “Van” VanVelzen Endowed Maritime Studies Scholarship, Endowed Veterans Scholarship, and Endowed Student Body President Scholarship

Established in 2022 by Eric “Van” VanVelzen ’02

Eric “Van” VanVelzen ’02, credits Texas A&M-Galveston with changing his life and opening doors he could have never imagined. As a veteran, maritime studies major, and former student body president, Van created 3 scholarships through a planned gift that will help Sea Aggies pursue their dreams. The 3 scholarships are:

- Eric “Van” VanVelzen Endowed Maritime Studies Scholarship
- Eric “Van” VanVelzen Endowed Veterans Scholarship (for military veterans)
- Eric “Van” VanVelzen Student Body President Scholarship (to support future student body presidents)

Before attending the Galveston campus, Van enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1989 as an Avionics Technician. In December 1990, he was deployed to Bahrain to support Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After 7 years of active duty, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve and started his maritime studies degree at Texas A&M-Galveston.

Upon graduation, Van attended the U.S. Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in New London, Connecticut, and was commissioned in February 2003. He retired from the Coast Guard in February 2020 and returned to Pelican Island where he served as the Texas A&M Maritime Academy Commandant of Cadets until 2022. He is now enjoying some time off to travel and explore our great country.

