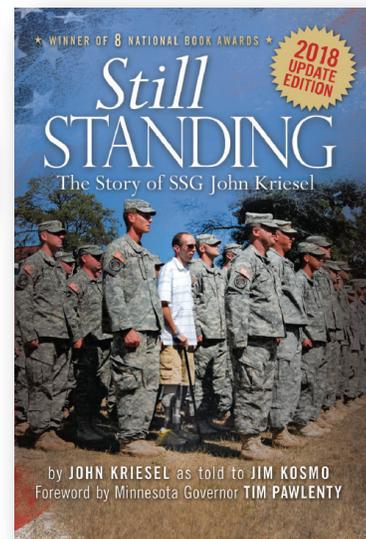


# Still STANDING

The Story of SSG John Kriesel

By John Kriesel as told to Jim Kosmo



## BOOK DESCRIPTION

When Staff Sergeant John Kriesel lost his legs and two buddies to a roadside bomb explosion on December 2, 2006, no one expected him to survive. He died three times on the operating table. Miracles, starting with a few Army grunts that refused to let him die in Iraq, ripped the young warrior from the grip of death and sent him on to four hospitals, thirty-five surgeries, and months of recovery and rehabilitation. Medical miracles put his body back together, but it was an incredible confluence of angels at every step along the way that breathed life into his shattered body.

This is not just another war story. This is the story of an ordinary young man who overcame extraordinary challenges with a lot of help from others, including many strangers, and he emerged stronger and more in love with his country, his family, and ultimately, his own life.

In 2018 Kriesel and Kosmo updated their national award-winning *Still Standing: The Story of SSG John Kriesel* for its 11th printing. The 2018 Updated Version includes all of the original material plus new photos and adds how Kriesel has not only survived but thrived in ways no one could have envisioned.

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR JOHN

- What are the changes included in the 2018 Update Edition of your *Still Standing*?
- What is the message you are trying to convey through this book?
- After everything you have been through over the past 12 years, would you have done anything different?
- What are you doing to stay busy now?



## ABOUT JOHN KRIESEL

John Kriesel is a retired soldier, former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, author, radio contributor and motivational speaker.

Kriesel served in the Minnesota Army National Guard from 1998 to 2008, rising to the level of Staff Sergeant. He was stationed in Kosovo in 2004 as part of a NATO peacekeeping force and, in 2006 at Camp Fallujah in Iraq. He lost both of his legs in military combat in 2006 in an encounter with an IED, or roadside bomb. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Purple Heart Medal, and the Bronze Star Medal for his service to his country.

Kriesel serves as a veteran services director, frequent contributor on KFAN's "Power Trip Morning Show" and travels throughout the country sharing his story with organizations and businesses. He currently lives in the Twin Cities with his fiancé Kayla. For more info on John Kriesel visit [www.johnmkriesel.com](http://www.johnmkriesel.com)

## ABOUT JIM KOSMO

In 2010, Captain Jim Kosmo retired as a Mississippi riverboat pilot and partner with the Padelford Riverboats Co., of Saint Paul, Minnesota, to spend more time writing and working with new authors through his company, Author's Advocates, LLC. He wrote the national-award-winning *Still Standing: The Story of SSG John Kriesel* and helped Lieutenant Colonel Mark Weber self-publish *Tell My Sons*, which was then acquired by Random House Publishing. In 2018, Jim released the national-award-winning *Monsters in the Hallway*.

Kosmo is past president of the Rotary Club of Saint Paul, member of the Minnesota National Guard Senior Advisory Task Force, and former mayor of Bayport, Minnesota. He spent twenty years as a newspaper reporter and editor and as a public relations manager in Minneapolis and Chicago.

Kosmo and his wife, Shelley, have a blended family of eight adult children and twelve grandchildren. He resides in Bayport. For more info on Jim Kosmo visit [www.jimkosmo.com](http://www.jimkosmo.com)

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