



JOHN KRIESEL

Motivational Speaker

SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION

STILL STANDING. STILL SMILING.

John Kriesel may have lost his legs and three close buddies in Iraq, but he came home with a powerful message of hope and living testimony to the value of a positive attitude to overcome any challenge.

John served as a NATO peacekeeper in Kosovo in 2004 before volunteering for deployment to Iraq. On December 2, 2006 his team struck an improvised explosive device (IED) and he was not expected to survive. He died three times in the operating room, but 35 surgeries and nine months later he walked out of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He retired as a staff sergeant following 10 years in the Army National Guard receiving the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and other awards.

In 2010 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives, but decided not to seek re-election when his family said they wanted to spend more time with him.

He is director of veterans services for a County in Suburban Minneapolis, MN, a part-time personality on KFAN Radio, motivational speaker, and co-author of the book, "Still Standing: The Story of SSG John Kriesel," republished in 2018 and winner of 8 national book awards.

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