

is honored on Panel 43E, Row 57 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** RICHARD ARNE KOSKI  
**Wall Name:** RICHARD A KOSKI  
**Date of Birth:** 6/3/1942  
**Date of Casualty:** 3/8/1968  
**Home of Record:** PENGILLY  
**County of Record:** ITASCA COUNTY  
**State:** MN  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** 1LT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** DINH TUONG



KOSKI, RICHARD ARNE

First Lieutenant (Artillery), U.S. Army

Battery A, 3d Battalion, 34th Artillery, 9th Infantry Division

Date of Action: March 8, 1968

Citation:

**The Distinguished Service Cross** is presented to Richard Arne Koski, First Lieutenant (Artillery), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Battery A, 3d Battalion, 34th Artillery, 9th Infantry Division. First Lieutenant Koski distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 8 March 1968 as artillery forward observer with an infantry unit during an airmobile assault mission near My Tho. The helicopter formation received a devastating volume of automatic weapons and machine gun fire as it arrived at the landing zone, and only Lieutenant Koski's ship and one other aircraft were able to discharge their passengers onto the battlefield. The insurgents immediately pressed a furious assault on the outnumbered friendly forces with savage rocket, mortar and small arms fire. Braving the withering fusillade, Lieutenant Koski called for artillery support and skillfully adjusted the fire to within twenty-five meters of the defenders' perimeter. Shrapnel and enemy bullets struck all around him, but he moved into the open time after time to locate Viet Cong emplacements and destroy them with deadly strikes. Seriously wounded by an exploding enemy round, he fearlessly continued his mission until he succumbed to his injuries. His gallant and selfless actions in the heat of battle were instrumental in repelling the determined hostile attack and forcing the insurgents to withdraw. First Lieutenant Koski's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

### **I was there when he heroically died.**

Gunner 42, that is what we called him, was one of my FO's. I was the Liaison Officer with A battery, 3rd Battalion 34th Artillery, 9th Infantry Division, Gunner 40. I watched his helicopter go down and when I received his radio call I was as surprised as I could be. He was trapped but took control. His DSC says most of it but you had to see how many times he exposed himself to really know what a hero he was. I relayed his adjustments for his fire. After he was wounded, he did not slow down. He was a hero that day. But what his DSC does not say is how many times he was a hero all the time we served together in RVN and that was from his first day. I could always count on 42 to bring us thru a jam. We had great times together for the short time it was. I will never forget him.

Posted by: Alphonse (Al) Masella Jr., US Army Retired  
Relationship: We served together  
Wednesday, September 2, 2009

### **You probably don't remember me but...**

March 8th was the day after my 20th birthday and my first combat operation. We had talked the last couple of days and I remember you as a nice guy and an officer who could talk to enlisted men without the attitude. That afternoon when we hit the hot LZ about ten of us were together in the corner of those dikes laying down cover fire while you called in the arty, keeping the VC from overrunning us. After you were hit you still managed to direct the fire. You probably don't remember me but I was the one giving you water that night as you literally died in my arms. I'm sorry we couldn't get you out of there. I'm sorry I didn't get to know you better.

Posted by: Don Isble  
Relationship: We served together  
February 21, 2001

### ***From thewall-usa.com***

Although I only knew Rich for 2 months, we spent many unforgettable hours together. I immediately learned to love him as a brother. I will always consider him a dear friend and a personal hero. His heroism, humor, and compassion are missed every day. March 8th is a day that will live in my memory forever. God bless Rich, his family, and everyone who had the honor of knowing him.

Lee Kropp (1LT / CPT on 2nd tour)  
Friend & fellow 9th Divison vet  
Mar 8, 2011