

“An Everyday Hero in Our Community - A True Difference Maker”

Heroes come in all shapes, sizes, and ages. They are selfless, courageous givers putting others needs over their own, in split-second decisions, as heroism materializes when we least expect it. Darryl and Ryan Tsatso were the epidemy of everyday heroes.

Like Darryl and Ryan’s heroism, my most notable act of heroism occurred when I saved my classmates life during our 5th grade standardized testing. Our teacher distributed hard peppermint candy to help us stimulate brain activity. However, during testing, my friend, began choking and throwing the universal choking sign. I quickly went into action, jumping across desks, and performed the Heimlich Maneuver saving his life before the teacher could even reach him. The following year, I was recognized with the Boy Scout’s Medal of Merit Award for saving a life. Today, my friend plans to become a doctor as a result of this experience to pay it forward and help others. Heroism is contagious!

My junior year, I was unexpectedly noticed helping a special needs student as he was struggling to finish the one-mile PE test. After I was finished running, I caught up to him and offered encouraging words as we finished strong “together.” My teacher was incredibly captivated with my kindness and wrote me a letter of recommendation for college as a result of my actions. My senior year, I earned the St. Lawrence Youth Volunteer award for several years of service volunteering at the Annual St. Lawrence Fish Fry. These actions demonstrate some of my ability to be a

difference maker in my community which has been rooted in my upbringing through my family, faith, friends, school, as well as football & baseball.

As a 2020 high school graduate, I lost the end of my senior year. I took a gap year, worked full-time as a front-line worker, while deferring admission to Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets until August 2021. I am drawn to Virginia Tech because it is a leading senior military college that produces top-tier officers, has a world-class engineering program, and a long proud history of service. Their motto, Ut Prosim, "That I May Serve," resonates with my personal convictions. After college, I plan to commission in the Marine Corps as an officer to lead, serve and protect which demonstrates my courage and true selflessness. Then, I plan to transition to a civilian career to pursue developing weapon systems, protective gear, or prosthetics for active military, veterans, and first responders. I believe my purpose in life is to serve and protect others just as Darryl and Ryan did with their selfless acts of heroism. I would be honored to carry on the Tsatsos brothers legacy. Thank you for your consideration. God Bless!