

Meet the August 18, 2018 WaterFire Orb Lighter:

Corry Fenton

There are certain professions that come to mind when you think about heroes – and the ones who enter those professions knowing coming to the rescue might be a daily occurrence for them. We all agree that Paramedics are heroes! When we call for an ambulance or walk into an Emergency Department in a hospital setting, we rely on those professionals to take care of our illnesses and injuries. We rely on them to share their expertise by taking care of us and our loved ones. Let us introduce you to Corry Fenton, a Paramedic from Hermitage. Certainly, a hero every day he goes to work, and one who found himself in an even more elevated position of hero the night he attended a concert in Las Vegas.

Corry Fenton is a 4th generation fire service, growing up around a station since he was 6 months old. He chose to pursue the medical field after a family loss when he was young. That loss left him determined to be in a position to readily help someone who needed it. Several members of his family have been active in firefighting and EMT services. Corry became an EMT at the age of 16.

Working as a Paramedic full time at Sharon Regional Medical Center in the Emergency Department, he still makes himself available to work part-time for Elite EMS Ambulance Service in Hermitage. Corry is an EMS instructor, and volunteers at area fire departments where he serves as a firefighter and Paramedic. His wife Carol is the secretary for Hermitage Fire Department. This couple is dedicated to providing safety and emergency services for people in the area and as it turns out, everyone they come in contact with – no matter where that might be!

In 2012 their daughter Chrissy Ammer took a job in Las Vegas. The couple enjoyed their visits to Las Vegas and attending their outdoor country music festivals. The music, time away, and time spent with their daughter was something they both were looking forward to. On October 1, 2017 they attended the Jason Aldean concert – for an evening no one will ever forget. While we at home watched in horror what was transpiring in Las Vegas, Corry and his family found themselves in the middle of what he describes as “a war zone – with blood everywhere”.

The Fenton family was at the Route 91 Country Music Festival enjoying acts by artists, one singing “God Bless America”. Corry recalls the audience using their phones to light up the darkness showing unity as the song was played while the performers encouraged Americans to come together. With great seats near the stage, while Jason Aldean performed the first shots were heard. Corry described the silence that happened next, with more shots quickly following. Corry saw a fellow concert goer standing only feet away from him fall to the ground – he’d been shot. So was the girl in front of them – and the shots didn’t stop until over 1100 rounds had been shot off. What Corry did next is truly heroic. First, he secured his family by getting them over the fence between them and the stage, and tucking them under it. Then he turned around and went straight into the chaos. Even though bullets were still whizzing in the air and the pandemonium escalated, Corry knew what was happening and was determined to assist. He describes taking many of the injured to the fence, lifting them above it and securing them in an area that was out of the line of fire where he began to treat them. At some point, the shots stopped, but Corry didn’t. After seeing his family taken to the next safety area with assistance by law enforcement, Corry attended to those laying injured on the ground, one he describes as a “battlefield”. He spent the rest of his evening checking on his family, and carrying others to ambulances. 58 people died that night, and 851 people were injured. The situation he found himself in may be mindboggling to the rest of us, yet this dedicated, professional first responder kicked into a gear we’ll never understand and performed heroic measures taking care of so many others. Corry describes the impact of that experience as “It gave me a different outlook on life with family, faith, career and volunteerism, and how it could change without notice”.

Corry, on behalf of all of the people who you helped that night, and the fearlessness you displayed, WaterFire salutes **you! YOU** are a hero of untold measures and we are so proud you’re part of our community!



WaterFire Sharon is honored to have Corry Fenton light the Orb tonight!

ART

MUSIC

DANCE

PERFORMANCES

FOOD