

Dear Mountain Forum,

A great man has passed away.

Sir Edmund Hillary, first man to climb Mt. Everest with his friend Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, is no more with us.

Hillary once said:

"I don't know if I particularly want to be remembered for anything. I have enjoyed great satisfaction from my climb of Everest and my trips to the poles. But there's no doubt, either, that my most worthwhile things have been the building of schools and medical clinics. That has given me more satisfaction than a footprint on a mountain."

He was a giant of mountaineering as well as of philanthropy.

He will be missed but never forgotten.

On the behalf of the Mountain Forum, I express my deepest condolences to his family and friends as well as to the millions of people who admire him.

Best regards,

Ana Maria Ponce
Executive Secretary, Mountain Forum

Reference news articles:

Everest legend Edmund Hillary dies at 88
<http://www.mounteverest.net/news.php?news=16897>

My Himalayan climb with Hillary'
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7182414.stm>

Everest hero Edmund Hillary dies
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7182376.stm>

Everest legend Edmund Hillary dies
<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/01/10/edmund.hillary/index.html>

Edmund Hillary, First to Scale Mount Everest,
Dies (Update3)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601080&sid=agkyZ81JkLKo&refer=asia>

Sir Edmund Hillary, 1st to scale Mt. Everest, dies

<http://travel.latimes.com/articles/la-trw-sir-edmund-hillary-dies-11jan08>

Edmund Hillary, First Atop Everest, Dies

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ih8RFhU9VGI93O2VDBw3Xs7Hb_6AD8U3E90G1

Everest conqueror Hillary dies aged 88

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jg3u8ZRI48nwGMITF1aQp193fIDw>

State funeral to be held for Hillary

<http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/536641/1540463>

Scott Base mourns Sir Edmund Hillary

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10486326

The shadow over Sir Edmund's life

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/4352024a10.html>

Mayor Harvey pays tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK0801/S00047.htm>

Edmund Hillary, first atop Everest, dies

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=133957>

**SIR EDMUND HILLARY MOUNTAIN LEGACY MEDAL:
2008 Call for Nominations**

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal, awarded for "remarkable service in the conservation of culture and nature in remote mountainous regions".

Recipients of the first Hillary Medal (2003) were Michael Schmitz and Helen Cawley; the second awarded medal (2006) was presented to Dr. Alton C Byers at a ceremony in Melbourne, Australia. The 2008 Medal presentation ceremony is planned to be held at Tengboche Monastery on May 29, 2008. The presentation will be a featured event in the celebration commemorating the 55th anniversary of Sir John Hunt's expedition to Mount

Everest; which culminated in the successful ascent by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

Nominations and supporting material, whether submitted in hardcopy or electronic form, are due by midnight (Australian Eastern Daylight Time) on Friday, February 22, 2008. Additional information and the nomination form can be downloaded at: www.HillaryMedal.org

Background of Sir Edmund Hillary Medal:

The Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal was initiated in 2003 both in order to recognise Sir Edmund's life-long commitment to the welfare of mountain people and their environment and also to encourage the continuing emulation of his example. Sir Edmund's contributions and the work of the foundations he founded or inspired in New Zealand, Canada, the United States and Germany have resulted in the construction of some thirty schools, two airstrips, two hospitals and eleven village clinics as well as a reforestation program in Sagarmatha National Park. Authorized by Sir Edmund Hillary himself, the Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal is a project of Mountain Legacy, a Nepalese NGO (www.mountainlegacy.org), and is sponsored by the Environment and Planning Program, The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University
<http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=i4idy6nypbwj>

Qualifying Criteria:

The Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal is awarded "for remarkable service in the conservation of culture and nature in remote mountainous regions."

- Nominees working in remote mountainous regions anywhere in the world are eligible.
- As the award is for both cultural and environmental conservation, nominees should be working in inhabited remote mountain regions.
- One purpose of this award is to draw attention to efforts that are in need of broader support; therefore nominees should be currently engaged in such a project.

- Nominations of third parties as well as self-nominations will be accepted.
- Hillary Medal recipients cannot be re-nominated; however, unsuccessful candidates may be re-nominated without prejudice.
- Two or more individuals may share a joint nomination if equal credit is due for the same project(s); however, in such a case only one medal will be awarded.
- The identities of nominators and of unsuccessful nominees shall remain confidential.

Nominations should specify pertinent accomplishments of the nominee, as well as documentation and references that will assist the Hillary Medal Selection Committee in identifying and evaluating the impact of the nominee's efforts.

Former Sir Edmund Hillary Medal Winners:

2003: Michael Schmitz and Helen Cawley, who for the previous decade had been working on keystone cultural and ecological projects in the Solu-Khumbu area of Nepal. Their work entailed assessing the requirements of the recently reconstructed Tengboche Monastery and implementing improvements including drinking water supply, sanitary facilities, porter lodge, accommodations for the monks, information center, clinic staffed by trained amchi (traditional Tibetan medicine specialist), reforestation, and conservation of endangered species.

Schmitz and Cawley also carried out the Thubten Chholing Monastery Development Project at the request of His Holiness Trulshik Rinpoche, one of the teachers of the Dalai Lama. This monastery houses more than 300 monks who sought refuge there after fleeing Chinese oppression in Tibet. The project entailed construction of a new large prayer hall, kitchen, dining hall, classrooms, printing press, library, water system, toilets and hydro-power station.

2006: Dr Alton C Byers, Director of Research and Education at the Mountain Institute based in Elkins, West Virginia. From 1993 to 1994 Dr Byers worked

with the local residents and the government of Nepal to establish the Makalu-Barun National Park and Conservation Area. From 1994 to 1996 he founded and directed programs in the Huascarán National Park, Peru. Between 1998 and 2000, Dr Byers directed the Appalachian Program and the 400-acre Spruce Knob Mountain Centre in West Virginia.

Dr Byers' work has been instrumental in bringing awareness to the critical environmental damage that was occurring in the alpine meadow and sub alpine ecosystems with his project "Community-Based Conservation and Restoration of the Everest Alpine Zone Project". With support from the American Alpine Club and National Geographic Society this project has now become a Sherpa-directed program aimed at protecting and restoring the fragile ecosystems of the Khumbu that have been damaged by decades of under-regulated adventure tourism.

The closing date for nominations is February 22, 2008.

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