

from New Zealand and the sprightly Sherpa born in Tibet—became instant celebrities back in 1953, and have since evolved into legendary figures.

The son of a yak herder, Tenzing Norgay, who died in 1986, became the first humbly born Asian to rise to global fame entirely through his own efforts and sheer willpower. In many ways his story has a strong American flavor to it—with enough determination and hard work, anyone can achieve anything.

Norgay spoke 13 languages but could neither read nor write. He always told his children: "I climbed Everest so you wouldn't have to." His son, Norbu, now a resident of San Francisco, took these words to heart. College became his Everest.

Equally extraordinary is how Hillary and Norgay used their fame not for personal gain, but as champions of their people and, later, to help and protect the unique culture of the Sherpas.

For nearly 25 years now, I have been honored to consider Sir Edmund Hillary my friend. In September of 1981, he was with my husband when he fulfilled a dream: entering the beautiful Kanshung valley, in an attempt to climb the east face of Everest from Tibet.

In concert with the American Himalayan Foundation, Sir Edmund's Himalayan Trust, which was established in 1962, has been leading the effort to build schools, bridges, hospitals, and micro hydro plants, out of his deep and lasting affection for the Sherpa people.

To date, they have built 27 schools where once there were none. I am not talking about just funding alone—Sir Edmund actually took part in the actual construction of these and other buildings. Here is a man who puts the divots back. Just ask the Sherpa children who grew up tending yaks who are now doctors, pilots and investment bankers.

The Himalayan Trust has also built two hospitals, one in Khunde and one in Paphlu, and 11 village clinics that provide health care for the Sherpa communities and trekkers alike.

The Trust has worked to combat the deforestation of the Khumbu, caused largely by tourism, by planting more than 1 million trees, to restore the sacred monasteries at Tengbouche and Thame—central sites for the spirituality of the Sherpas, and in the establishment, in 1976, of the Sagarmatha National Park. Sagarmatha is the Nepali name for Mount Everest.

At 83 years old, New Zealand's former High Commissioner to India is still going strong. For half a century now he has been one of the enduring figures of our time.

He has taught me and so many others about the simple yet majestic power of the Himalayas and the marvelous but far too often forgotten people whose ancient culture is tied so closely to those amazing mountains.

Being the first to reach the top of the world would ensure anyone's name in

the history books—and Hillary and Norgay achieved that the moment news spread of their heroic accomplishment.

But I believe had they not been the men they were—soft spoken and down to earth, devoted to actions and example, to helping others rather than themselves—then they would have ended up as mere footnotes.

Instead, the names of Hillary and Norgay remain an inspiration to people around the world. And I am absolutely certain that the same will be true 50 years from now, when it comes time to celebrate the 100th anniversary, and for many other anniversaries to follow.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 4. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

MEASURE REFERRED

The following joint resolution was read the first time and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.J. Res. 4. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1174. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to accelerate the increase in the refundability of the child tax credit, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2476. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Utah: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision (FRL 7505-1)" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2477. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (FRL 7505-5)" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2478. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and South Coast Air Quality Management District (FRL 7495-4)" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2479. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Tennessee; Approval of Revisions to the Tennessee Implementation Plan (FRL 7506-8)" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2480. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Kentucky: Approval of Revisions to Maintenance Plan for Northern Kentucky (FRL 7505-3)" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2481. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Georgia Update of Materials Incorporated by Reference (FRL 7500-9)" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2482. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Removal of Alternative Emission Reduction Limitations (FRL 7504-6)" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2483. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Regulation to Prevent and Control Particulate Matter Air Pollution From Manufacturing Processes and Associated Operations (FRL 7503-9)" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2484. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Regulations to Prevent and Control Air Pollution from the Emission of Sulfur Oxides (FRL 7500-2)" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2485. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Amendments to the Control of Volatile Organic Compounds from Chemical Production and Polytetrafluoroethylene Installations (FRL 7503-7)" received on June 1, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2486. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator,