



January 16, 2009

Pemba Gyalje Sherpa

Dear Pemba,

On behalf of the David A. Sowles committee of The American Alpine Club, I would like to congratulate you on being awarded the **David A. Sowles Award** for your heroic rescue efforts on K2 in August 2008.

David A. Sowles was killed at the age of 29 in a tragic accident during a lightening storm in the Alps on August 4, 1963. He was considered a mountaineer's mountaineer. He climbed with grace, style, and elegance matched only by the professional guides. He moved swiftly, always safely, and with the utmost consideration for the welfare of his companions. The David A. Sowles Memorial Award was established in 1981. It is conferred from time to time on mountaineers who have distinguished themselves, with unselfish devotion at personal risk or sacrifice of a major objective, in going to the assistance of fellow climbers imperiled in the mountains. It is dedicated to the memory of David A. Sowles.

Best regards,

Jed Williamson  
Committee Chair

