

The last time I saw her alive was at Camp I on Annapurna IV, two days before she died. We were sharing a particularly beautiful sunset over Manaslu. She turned to me and said "This is why we climb, for moments like this."

Debbie graduated in 1985 from Columbia University in Columbia, Missouri, with a degree in Wildlife Biology. She moved to Colorado in 1989 with her husband, Chuck. They had a son, Zachary, in 1995. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service, including the Trails and Maintenance Department and Timber Management Department. After the Annapurna IV climb was over, she was scheduled to finally work in the field she was trained in, doing wildlife management in Eagle. She was also a firefighter for the Forest Service and held the title of Wild Land Fighter, being called to work in the forest fires that happen every summer. She trained to be a crew leader for a firefighting unit. She was a volunteer firefighter for the city of Glenwood Springs. She was also a volunteer for the CMC, helping primarily with the newsletter.

Debbie loved to climb. Chuck supported her fully in this activity, even though he was not a climber himself. He told me not too long ago that "You've got to do what you love while you are in this life." He, Debbie, and Zach spent a weekend at my house packing our food for this expedition. Chuck and Debbie were the most enthusiastic, performing this thankless task. They both had a deep reverence for the outdoors in general, sharing activities of fishing, hunting, backpacking, and skiing.

Debbie began her climbing career when she moved to Colorado by climbing the 14ers. She had completed over half of them this year, when she and Rich Davidson climbed San Luis Peak with Zach in her backpack. She progressed to the Mexican volcanoes, which she climbed twice, in 1990 and 1993. She summited McKinley in 1992 via the West Buttress route. In 1993, she reached the summit of Aconcagua, climbing solo. She took time off to have Zach, and got back into climbing soon afterward, first joining the 1997 Firefighters on Everest Expedition and then deciding to do the Memory Climb instead. From the notes in her journal, we found she was already planning her next climb in Canada in 1998. She had recently become interested in ice climbing and rock climbing.

Debbie and Rich are buried in a beautiful location on a hilltop at the foot of Annapurna II, Annapurna III, and Annapurna IV. We will miss you, Debbie. You will be remembered.

Debbie Marshall-Rich Davidson

October 4, 1996

We love you

Climb on

(Inscription etched onto an aluminum cook pot lid marking the graves of Debbie and Rich at Annapurna IV Base Camp.)

CHAD ALBER

VANJA FURLAN

1966-1996

Vanja Furlan who was born on May 15, 1966, in Novo Mesto in the Republic of Slovenia. He was a member of the Alpine Club Railwaymen from Ljubljana. His relatively short but very intense alpine career was interrupted August 15 while climbing the Kovinarska Route on the

north face of Velika Mojstrovka (2366 m) in the Julian Alps as a training tour on a course for aspirant guides. Vanja was a member and somehow the leader of a new young generation of Slovenian alpinists who made the step from big expeditions to small ones, and to alpine-style and solo climbing in the Himalaya.

Beside hard routes in the Slovenian mountains, Vanja did new Alpine routes on the north face of the Nesthorn and the east face of Monte Rosa, and visited the Canadian Rocky Mountains, New Zealand Alps and the Himalayas six times, all in a very short period of time during which he became one of the first Slovenian professional climbers. His solo of a new Slovenian route on the South Face of Mt. Cook led the same year to success on Siniolchu's north face with Uros Rupar and then to Langshisa Ri, where he put up solo a new route, *For Kango Chu, Two Friends, Van Morrison and a Goat*, on the northwest face. All this he accomplished in less than one year. In 1994 he became the Alpinist of the Year in Slovenia. After bad experiences on Annapurna, Ama Dablam's northwest face and Kumbakarna East's east face (twice), he made his last important new route with Tomaz Humar on Ama Dablam this year. The best ascent of the 1996 spring season in the Himalaya, the Grade VI 1650-meter route took five days. The game of fate being what it is, he dedicated the route to the memory of Stane Belak, the legendary Slovenian alpinist and mountain guide who lost his life in an avalanche last winter on the same mountain that later claimed Vanja.

FRANCI SAVENC

