SA heroes conquer Antarctic peak

By JOHANNIE VOOGEL

When Lawrence Stedman played cricket for Western Province, his teammates used to call him "Bear". Not because he was big but because he was not afraid to get his hands dirty. A decade ago, Bear made the world a safer place when he, along with Mike Gartside, began the climb to the summit of Mount Vinson and became the first South African to reach the South Pole. He was part of the 50-man team that included 18 South Africans and another 19 from other countries.

But Bear, the man who climbed to the Tapestry of Dreams and stood on the summit of the world's highest mountain, is no longer with us. On Tuesday, 4 October 2016, Bear passed away in his sleep. He was 57.

The news of Bear's passing is a blow to the 50-man team that made the historic expedition in 1999. The team included Mike Gartside, who passed away in 2013, and Mike Hirst, who also passed away last year.

Bear was a key member of the team that climbed to the summit of Mount Vinson. He was the leader of the team and was responsible for ensuring that all the members reached the summit safely.

Bear's passing is a loss to the South African expedition team and to the world of mountaineering. He will be remembered for his dedication, courage, and passion for the great outdoors.

Bear's family and friends will miss him deeply. His memory will live on through his contributions to the world of mountaineering and his love for the great outdoors.

The world of mountaineering has lost a true hero. Bear will be remembered for his achievements and his legacy will live on through the memories of those who knew him.

BEAR LIVES ON

Bear's legacy will live on through the memories of those who knew him. His passion for the great outdoors will continue to inspire new generations of mountaineers.

Bear's passing is a reminder of the risks and challenges that come with mountaineering. But it is also a reminder of the rewards and the satisfaction that come from achieving your goals.

Bear's story is one of courage, determination, and perseverance. It is a story that will continue to inspire others to pursue their dreams and to never give up.

Bear's passing is a loss to the South African expedition team and to the world of mountaineering. He will be remembered for his dedication, courage, and passion for the great outdoors.

Bear's legacy will live on through the memories of those who knew him. His passion for the great outdoors will continue to inspire new generations of mountaineers.

Bear's story is one of courage, determination, and perseverance. It is a story that will continue to inspire others to pursue their dreams and to never give up.