

Wednesday, March 1, 12:00 noon
Gallery of Outstanding Montanans
Induction Ceremony
Montana State Capitol Rotunda

Governor Gianforte and the Montana Historical Society invite you to join us as we honor Dolly Smith Cusker Akers and Ivan Doig upon their induction into the Gallery of Outstanding Montanans.

The Gallery of Outstanding Montanans was established by the State Legislature in 1979 to pay homage to citizens of the Treasure State who made contributions of state or national significance to their selected fields of endeavor while epitomizing the unique spirit and character that defines Montana.



Dolly Smith Cusker Akers, Montana's first American Indian legislator, fervently championed Indian self-determination during the twentieth century. Following her legislative tenure, she served as Montana's first coordinator of Indian welfare. In addition to her political service in Helena, she was a fixture in Washington, D.C. for over sixty years, fighting for passage of key federal legislation including the Indian Citizenship Act and the Indian Civil Rights Act. She died on June 5, 1986, having dedicated her life to securing opportunity for American Indians, especially members of the Fort Peck tribes.



Montana author and historian Ivan Doig devoted his career to telling the stories of ordinary people and examining the ways western lands shaped their lives. His diverse oeuvre, which included thirteen novels and three works of non-fiction, challenged the mythologized west and framed the western story in the larger context of what it means to be American. In 2007, Doig was recognized with the Wallace Stegner Award for making a sustained contribution to the cultural identity of the American West. Ivan Doig died on April 9, 2015, at age 76.