

Methow Valley News Online

Twisp Mayor Soo Ing-Moody honored by Cantwell as 'Woman of Valor'

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Twisp Mayor Soo Ing-Moody was honored recently as a "Woman of Valor" by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Washington) at a dinner held at the Westin Hotel in Seattle. Cantwell commended Ing-Moody for her "intelligence and dedication to providing for her constituents" and for her leadership during recent wildfires that threatened her community.

"I am sure that everyone here has seen images of the wildfires that ripped through our state earlier this year and last," Cantwell said in her introduction of Ing-Moody.

"Those scenes of destruction were not just dramatic, they took an immense toll on the community that were impacted."

Cantwell recounted how Ing-Moody moved to Twisp with her husband, Michael, and opened a bed-and-breakfast. She was appointed to a vacancy on the Twisp Council, and soon after that the mayor quit and she was appointed to that position.

"While head of this town, the worst wildfire in state history swept through her community. I first met Soo at a roundtable discussion in Twisp to provide an update on the fire suppression efforts and the services that were available to those impacted," Cantwell said. "Through the fires of adversity, Soo was tested and ultimately helped her community overcome the worst wildfires in our state's history," she said.

Four other women were also honored at the event, which featured Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell as speaker.



Left: Twisp Mayor Soo Ing-Moody, center, speaks with Police Chief Paul Budrow and other officials as a fire flares up in Twisp, Washington. Three firefighters were killed in the inferno the day before. Photographed on Thursday, August 20, 2015. Photo: J.Trujillo (seattlepi.com). **Right:** A firefighter uses a radio to give instructions to a helicopter pilot on where to make a water dump on a fire Thursday, 20 August 2015, in Twisp, Washington. Source: E.Thompson (The Bellingham Herald).



Left: A tanker drops fire retardant on a fire that flared-up Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015, in Twisp, Washington. Wildfires rampaged across the drought-choked West on Thursday as authorities scrambled for resources to beat back the flames. Source: E.Thompson (The Bellingham Herald). **Right:** Twisp Mayor Soo Ing-Moody looks up from a bridge as the water below her runs red from a drop of fire retardant earlier while smoke and flames rise behind, on 20 August 2015, in Twisp, Washington. Source: Daily News.



Flames and smoke rise on a ridge line above a ranch on Twisp River Road in Twisp, Wash., Wednesday, 19 August 2015. Authorities on Wednesday afternoon urged people in the north-central Washington town to evacuate because of a fast-moving wildfire. Source: T.S.Warren (The Bellingham Herald).

Senator Cantwell's introduction of Mayor Moody:

"I am sure that everyone here has seen images of the wildfires that ripped through our state earlier this year and last. Those scenes of destruction were not just dramatic, they took an immense toll on the communities that were impacted. One of the communities that were impacted. One of those communities most heavily impacted by the wildfires both this year and last was a small town called Twisp. Some of you may have visited there for their beautiful views and great hiking. Our next Woman of Valor, Soo-Ing Moody, moved to Twisp after meeting her husband Michael, who was from the area. They opened a bed and breakfast and settled into a quiet life in the Methow Valley. Soo noticed the City Council had a vacancy and decided it was her "time to serve." Little did she know that the Mayor would step down only a few months into her service and she would be appointed to take his place. While head of this town, the worst wildfire in state history swept through her community. I first met Soo at a roundtable discussion in Twisp to provide an update on the fire suppression efforts and the services that were available to those impacted. I was immediately impressed by Soo's intelligence and dedication to providing for her constituents. Through the fires of adversity, Soo was tested and ultimately helped her community overcome the worst wildfires in our state's history. Please help me welcome Soo Ing-Moody!"

Next page: Brief vita of Soo Ing-Moody

Soo Ing-Moody

Mayor of Twisp

Soo Ing-Moody was appointed mayor after the previous mayor stepped down. She served on the town council and was appointed after just a few months into her service. "I applied because there was a need and it was 'my time' to serve," recalled Ing-Moody of working on the town council. Little did she know that she would be called to head the entire town of Twisp after just a few months of service on the council.

Originally from Canada, Ing-Moody was a sociologist studying at the University of Toronto and then at Freiburg University in Germany where she received two masters' degrees. She is fluent in Chinese and German. While a student in Germany, an opportunity to work on a project in Mongolia led her to the Methow Valley. It was in Mongolia where she met her husband Michael. Michael was originally from the Methow Valley. After work and travel, the two decided to settle down in Twisp and opened a bed and breakfast. They have two boys, ages 11 and 13.



Video with interview of Soo Ing-Moody: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2O0OaFxEjI>

The staff of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) congratulates Soo Ing-Moody for her professional achievements and the management of the wildfire emergency in Twisp. Soo had served the GFMC in the late 1990s. Her scientific-technical publications at her time at the GFMC include:

Ing, Soo Kuen. 1999. The social conditions of fire. A sociological study of the affects and effects of wildfire on the Batschireet and Mongonmort regions of Mongolia. Magister Thesis, Philosophical Faculty, University of Freiburg.

Ing-Moody, Soo. 2001. Waldbrände in der Mongolei und ihre gesellschaftlichen Wurzeln. In: Feuer (B.J. Busch, J.G. Goldammer und A. Denk, Wiss. Red.), 345-353. Schriftenreihe Forum, Bd. 10, Elemente des Naturhaushaltes II. Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Hrsg.). Wienand, Köln, 608 p.

Goldammer, J.G., P.G.H. Frost, M. Jurvélius, E.M. Kamminga, T. Kruger, S. Ing-Moody, M. Pogeyed. 2002. Community participation in Integrated Forest Fire Management: Experiences from Africa, Asia and Europe. In: Communities in Flames. Proceedings of an International Conference on Community Involvement in Fire Management, 25-28 July 2001, Balikpapan, Indonesia (P. Moore, D. Ganz, L. Cheng Tan, T. Enters, and P.B. Durst, eds.), 33-52. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand. RAP Publication 2002/25, 133 p. (ISBN 974-7946-29-7).
Online access: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/Manag/CiF-Ch-5-Africa-Asia-Europe.pdf>