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## 8 Memorable Moments: At Home in Eastern Washington

*It was great to be home in Eastern Washington just in time for spring! I enjoyed visiting with community leaders and advocates throughout our community last month – because by far, the best part of my job is hearing from people like you. From touring small town pharmacies to participating in community meetings, here’s a list of what I was up to in April:*

### 1. Touring Gardena Farms Irrigation District



I had the opportunity to tour Gardena Farms Irrigation District, and enjoyed hearing from third- and fourth-generation alfalfa seed farmers. It was great to see the Gardena Ditch Dam, which helps our corner of Eastern Washington produce 25% of the world’s alfalfa seeds!

### 2. Conversations with Cathy



The highlight of my job as your representative in Congress is hearing from the wonderful people of Eastern Washington. After hosting ‘Conversations with Cathy’ in Walla Walla and Davenport, it was great to hear what is on your mind. From addressing veterans’ issues to alleviating health care concerns, it is an honor to serve our community in any way I can!

### 3. Millennial Meetup



From the national debt to employment obstacles to student loans, there are myriad issues on students' minds all across Eastern Washington. This month's Millennial Meetup included students from Gonzaga University, Washington State University, and Whitworth University —and it was great to hear what is on their minds. We owe it to today's young people to advance innovation and educational opportunities all across this country.

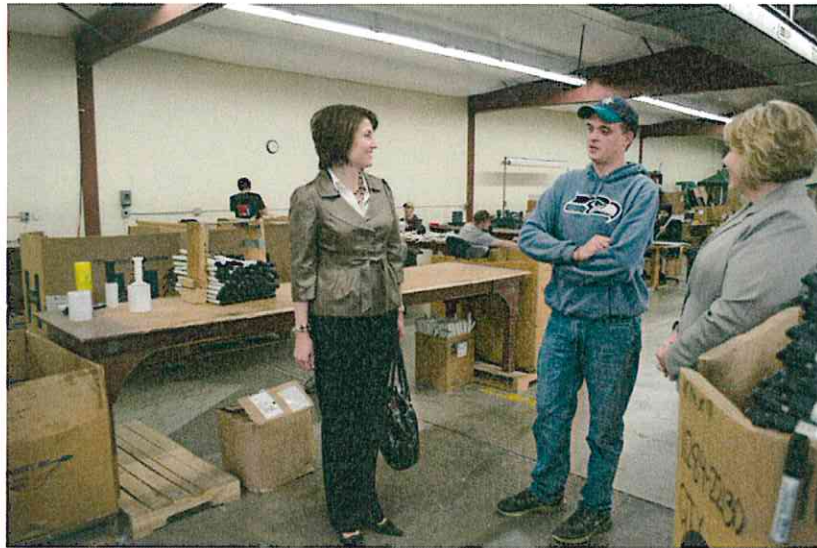
### 4. Visiting Walla Walla Community College



It was wonderful to hear from Dr. Steve VanAusdle and the Walla Walla Community College team. They're recreating an atmosphere brimming with an entrepreneurial spirit, and are hard at work arming our community with the tools they need to thrive in the modern workforce. And after sampling food by their culinary students, they are creating pretty delicious food, too!



## 5. Meeting with the Lillie Rice Center



The Lillie Rice Center in Walla Walla has served the community by offering incredible job opportunities for people with disabilities. It did my heart good to learn about everything they're doing. As I often say, a job is so much more than just a paycheck – it gives us purpose, dignity, and the foundation to build a future. While visiting, I had a great time talking with Kenny, who is the Seattle Seahawks #1 fan.

## 6. Republic Pharmacy



Small businesses are being hit incredibly hard by the President's unworkable health care law. I stopped by the Republic Drug Store to hear from Patty and Rob Slagle, small business owners and pharmacists who are struggling – and whose customers are experiencing higher costs. I am committed to cutting federal red tape and making it easier for Eastern Washington to access quality, affordable health care.

## 7. Colville National Forest



I've been meeting with local stakeholders, community members, and the Forest Service to discuss an innovative public-private approach to revive Colville National Forest, which has been hurt by decades of neglect. Today's overcrowded, sick, fire-prone forest needs restoration to heal itself and get our local economy growing again.

## 8. Honoring Chaplain Ben Vegors



For over forty years, Chaplain Vegors served as the head Chaplain at the Walla Walla Veteran's Affairs facility, and it was an honor to present him with a statement for the Congressional Record celebrating his retirement. As a World War II veteran and the oldest full-time Chaplain in the United States, Chaplain Vegors has touched the lives of countless veterans. This humble, compassionate man has brought tremendous good our community and our country!

*It was wonderful to hear from so many thinkers in Eastern Washington. I continue to take your thoughts and ideas with me to Congress, and look forward to working with you in the future! As always, please be sure to stop by my office if you ever need anything.*

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Whitson Rodger".