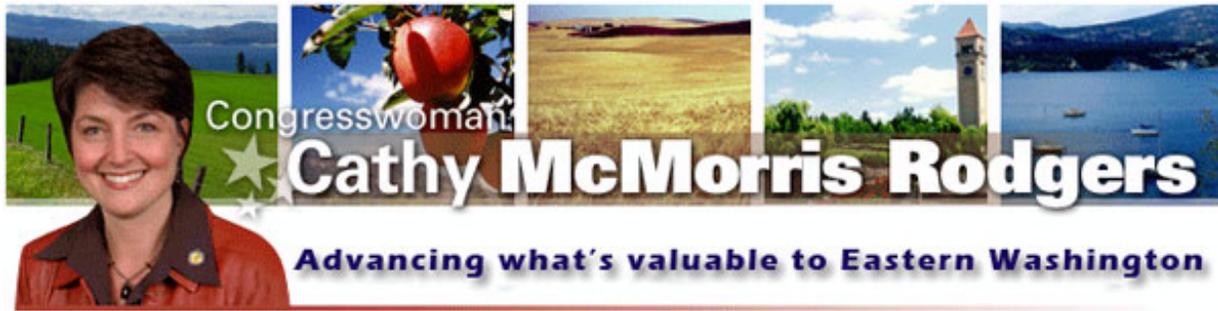


September 10, 2008

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Dear Friends,

Now that Congress is back in session, I hope the Democrats will allow a vote on a comprehensive American energy plan. I have joined my Republican colleagues in pushing for a vote on the American Energy Act, which would bring relief to the high energy prices we are all facing, through conservation, investment in renewable energy and increased exploration. I was disappointed we left for the August District Work Period without a vote on that plan.

I spent the month of August at home in Eastern Washington where I heard time and again that we need to reduce our energy costs. From farmers, to small businesses, to families, everyone is feeling the impact of high energy prices.

During my time back home, I was once again reminded of how Eastern Washington innovation can play an important part in solving our energy needs. I visited Ecolite Manufacturing in Spokane Valley which is testing solar panels. I also visited Itron in Liberty Lake that is making "smart meters" that can help use electricity more efficiently. And Pullman's Schweitzer Engineering is at the forefront of applying intelligent technology that helps consumers manage the use of power in their homes.

I am eager to promote these Eastern Washington innovations as our country works to solve our energy crisis. It is these examples ordinary people doing extraordinary things that make me proud to represent you in Congress.

## TALKING TRANSPORTATION

I was pleased to welcome the lead Republican on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Representative John Mica of Florida, to Eastern Washington. That is the committee in the House that will determine where federal transportation dollars are spent. During his visit last month, we toured the North-South corridor from the air and looked at dangerous railroad crossings in the Spokane Valley. We

## September 2008 Update

### In this issue:

Talking  
Transportation

Connecting  
Veterans with  
Benefits

Future of Fairchild

Helping Seniors  
with High Energy  
Costs

### News Brief: Education, Competitiveness Priorities Signed

I am pleased the President signed into law the Higher Education Opportunity Act. The bill is the first reauthorization of higher education programs in a decade, and reflects some of the things I've been working on since I was elected to Congress.

The bill contains my provisions to increase our nation's competitiveness by including scholarships for students studying

also met with Eastern Washington business and community leaders to discuss the area's transportation challenges and opportunities.

Next year, Congress is set to consider a major transportation funding bill and I am working to make sure Eastern Washington is well-positioned to receive support for regional priorities like the North-South corridor and Highway 12 improvements.



August 2008

This is Representative Mica and myself pausing for a quick photo with the crew who flew us over the north-south freeway.

## HELPING CONNECT VETERANS WITH IMPORTANT BENEFITS

I am pleased to announce I helped write legislation that will better connect veterans, in a more streamlined manner, with the benefits they are eligible for when they transfer from active duty to veteran status.

The "Providing Real Outreach to Vets (PRO-Vets) Act of 2008" ([H.R. 6494](#)) directs the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs to proactively determine and notify veterans who are retiring or separating from service about the benefits for which they are eligible.

Our nation's veterans should not have to struggle with difficult benefit eligibility and application processes. The PRO-Vets Act of 2008 will help ensure veterans are aware of their benefits, make it easier to receive benefits and help enrich the lives of veterans and their families.



math, science, engineering and computer science. It contains my language allowing adjunct content specialists in schools and it helps make college more affordable for Eastern Washington students.

>>[read more](#)

## Photo Album



(August 8, 2008)

I had the honor of awarding Iraqi War veteran Michael Paccarelli of Colville the Purple Heart for injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated in Iraq.



(August 10, 2008)

Here I am posing at SkyFest out at Fairchild Air Force Base. My husband Brian, who is a retired Navy pilot, and I were very impressed with the show!

## Photo Album

(Click on each of the below photos for a larger version)



Thank you to Charles Haire for submitting this photo of the Box Canyon Dam on the Pend Oreille River.



August 2008

Last month at the Washington Army National Guard Readiness Center in Spokane, I had the chance to personally thank the members of the Washington National Guard for their service and their families for their support as the members of the National Guard's 1st Battalion 161st Infantry Combat Team prepared for a second deployment to Iraq.

## THE FUTURE OF FAIRCHILD AFB

Protecting and expanding the role of Fairchild Air Force Base (FAFB) is one of my priorities, and basing the next generation of air refueling tankers there and strengthening the partnership between the 141st Air National Guard and the 92nd Refueling Wing are integral parts of that.

Last month, I invited Gen. Lichte, who is Commander of Air Mobility Command, to return to Spokane to meet with myself and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. Gen. Lichte oversees the air refueling tankers for the U.S. Air Force, including the 92nd Air Refueling Wing at FAFB.

I was pleased to hear him once again praise FAFB and underscore his support to base the next generation of air refueling tankers there. This is the third meeting we've had this year as we continue to work together to strengthen the role of Fairchild AFB and enhance the relationship between the 92nd Air Refueling Wing and the 141st Air National Guard unit.

## HELPING SENIORS WITH THE HIGH COST OF ENERGY

In my last newsletter, I asked you how the high cost of energy is affecting you. More than 150 of you responded, including Frank and Bannie Bowman from Walla Walla. They wrote, "We are retired and on a very limited and fixed income. That means now we go much less, and we have to watch what we spend on groceries and other necessary items. We have had to cut back on our utility use, and in short, things are very tight for us right now."

The Bowmans are a perfect example of how the high cost of energy is affecting Eastern Washington seniors. Finding ways they can save money and find help were the goals of my Seniors Listening Session and Resource Fair in Spokane in August. I thank the dozens of seniors who attended.

I also thank the participants who provided information and resources to the seniors who attended. Below is a list of some of them, and links to more information.



This beautiful picture from Janel Slatten shows the Spokane River just off Highway 291 at Charles Road, just up from Long Lake Dam.



Manito Park in Spokane is always gorgeous. Thank you to Wayne Frint for sending this picture.

## Send me your photos

Submit your pictures you've taken of Eastern Washington, along with a brief description, [by sending me an e-mail](#). Look for them in next month's e-newsletter.

## Areas of Interest

What issues are important to you?

- Improving access to quality, affordable health care
- Safeguarding our nation and community
- Reducing taxes and regulatory burdens
- Encouraging innovative energy solutions
- Managing our resources economy
- Supporting our

[SNAP](#) (Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs)

[Avista](#)

[Social Security Administration](#)

[Aging and Long Term Care of](#)

[Eastern Washington](#)

[Meals on Wheels in Spokane](#)

[Catholic Charities in Spokane](#)

### Join my Seniors Advisory Committee!

Call my Spokane office at  
509-353-2374  
to keep up to date  
on issues involving Eastern  
Washington seniors

## MILITARY ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

If your son or daughter is interested in applying for acceptance into a military academy, I invite you to one of my open houses. Liaisons from the academies will be on hand to answer your questions. This open house is not only for graduating high school seniors, but for any student in grades 9-12 who might be interested in attending a military academy.

I am holding three open houses:

**Monday, September 29, 2008 - Spokane Congressional Office**

**Tuesday, Septmeber 30, 2008 - Colville Congressional Office**

**Wednesay, October 1, 2008 - Walla Walla Congressional Office**

Please RSVP to 509-353-2374 or [e-mail](#). You can download a military academy application by clicking [here](#).

agriculture community

- Caring for seniors
- Developing a 21st Century Workforce
- Women's Issues
- Advocating for new and existing transportation infrastructure
- Supporting our military and veterans
- Improving our education system

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