

Kinzinger: 'The American spirit is alive'

U.S. rep visited Whiskey Acres Distilling Co. Tuesday

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DeKALB – When U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Channahon, visited Whiskey Acres Distilling Co. in DeKalb on Tuesday, he didn't stop by to sample whiskey or other spirits.

Instead, Kinzinger spoke of “the American spirit” and the importance of community while meeting with Whiskey Acres' co-owners Jim Walter, Jamie Walter and Nick Nagele. Kinzinger thanked them for switching part of their facility's production to making hand sanitizer during the pandemic.

Jamie Walter said that the reason Whiskey Acres first made hand sanitizer was to help the local community.

“That's why we made that first batch of 175 gallons in-house and donated it all locally, because we wanted to help,” he said. Walter said that he then saw an opportunity to continue making hand sanitizer when “there was a dire need for it.”

Whiskey Acres staff filled, capped and labeled the hand sanitizer's containers by hand. Walter described the all-female staff bottling hand sanitizer as “like a war effort.”

“They described the women of Whiskey Acres as the modern-day Rosie the Riveters, so they designed [a T-shirt] and donated the proceeds,”



Photos by Mark Busch - mbusch@shawmedia.com

U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Channahon, (right) talks to Jamie Walter and Nick Nagele (left), two of the founders of Whiskey Acres Distilling Co., on Tuesday at the distillery in DeKalb. Kinzinger was visiting the facility to recognize them for their efforts during the pandemic for switching over part of their production to making hand sanitizer.

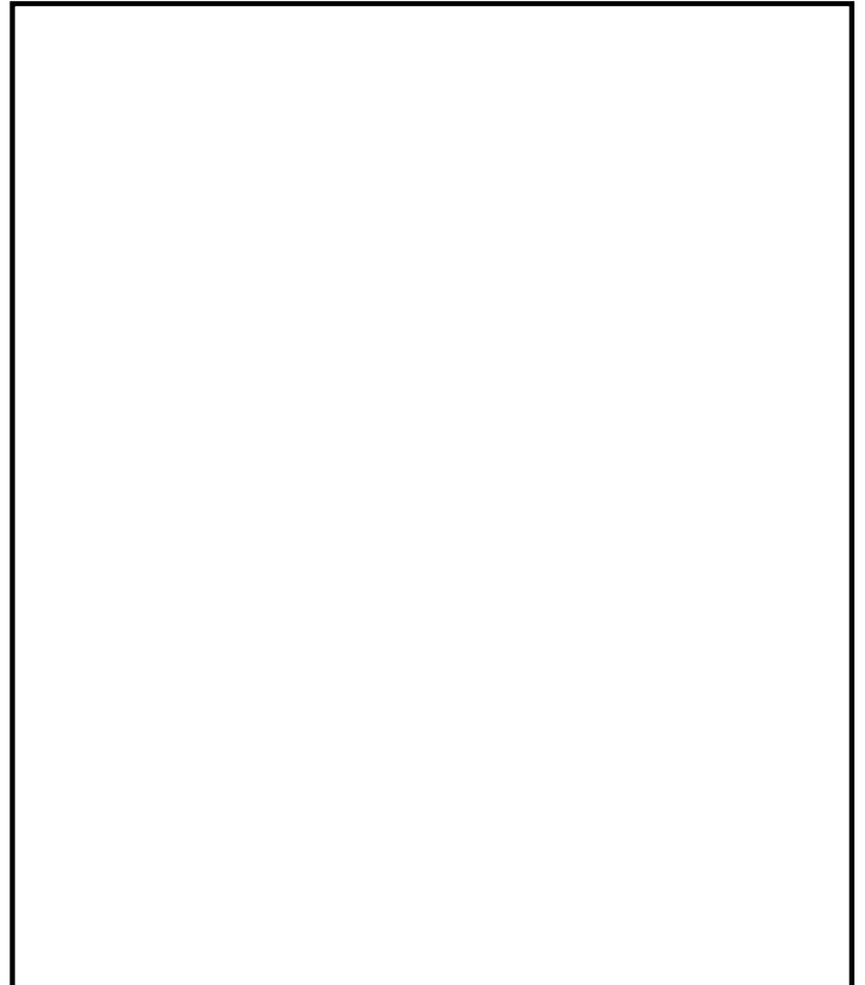
Walter said.

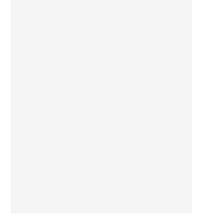
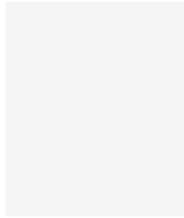
The first \$1,500 of T-shirt proceeds was given to help provide food for health care workers during the pandemic and between \$5,000 and \$6,000 was donated to the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

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Jamie Walter, (left) one of the founders of Whiskey Acres Distilling Co., talks to U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Channahon, on Tuesday at the distillery in DeKalb. Kinzinger was visiting the facility to recognize them for their efforts during the pandemic for switching over part of their production to making hand sanitizer.





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After making between 25,000 and 30,000 gallons of hand sanitizer over a six-week period, Whiskey Acres has returned to making spirits. Kinzinger praised Whiskey Acres' efforts to help the community.

"I talk a lot about threats to the country, but truly, my biggest concern is not China, it's not Russia, it's not even terrorism, it's internal division," Kinzinger said. "Having division and having debates is good, that's important, but I think we've gotten to the point where we see each other as the enemy, and I think when you don't see examples of a community coming together, and helping each other, regardless of political affiliation, that tends to be internal-

ized. I think this just goes to show that the American spirit is still alive."



Adam Kinzinger, U.S. Rep

