

**(WASHINGTON, D.C.)** – U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colorado) today released the following statement on the decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to build a stand-alone hospital in Aurora. The state-of-the-art facility will provide much needed services to our veterans, including an entire sector devoted to spinal cord injuries. The VA hopes to open the hospital by the summer of 2013.

"Today's announcement respects the tremendous sacrifices of those who have served in defense of our freedom by providing much needed care."

"My late father was a career soldier who had his last assignment at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in 1964. I grew up in and around Fitzsimons and the VA hospital will fit in well with the great legacy of providing care for those in uniform."