Coffman Surprises WWII Veteran with Presentation of Medal

Pays Tribute on House Floor

(WASHINGTON D.C.) — Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) today honored retired Air Force Lt. George Ohlman on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Late last month, Coffman presented Ohlman with the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal he was awarded for valor during World War II. Ohlman, 88, was awarded the medal for his display of courage and acts of leadership as a flight leader in the famed 396th Fighter Squadron known as the "Thunder Bums." Coffman surprised Ohlman at his home in Franktown, Colorado and presented the medal to Ohlman during a ceremony attended by 50 of Ohlman's friends and family.

"It is truly an honor to present Lt. Ohlman with this prestigious medal, his bravery and character serves as an example to us all. On this day we recognize and thank him for his service to our

nation," Coffman said at the ceremony.

During his speech on the House floor Coffman honored Ohlman stating, "On September 3rd, 1944, near Mons, Belgium, then-Lt. Ohlman lead his wingman in a strafing run on enemy positions. His aircraft received several direct hits but he nevertheless continued the attack until out of ammunition. Ohlman flew over one hundred combat missions in World War II. Due to the chaos and confusion prevalent during war, he never actually received the medal. Rectifying that oversight last month was a great honor for me."

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Click here to see Rep. Coffman's floor speech .

Rep. Coffman and George Ohlman at Ohlman's home, Nov. 28, 2009