

## Coffman Statement on Veterans Day

**(Lone Tree, CO)** - Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) released the following statement today in recognition of Veterans Day:

“In 1969 and 1970, I was a member of the local chapter of the Junior Red Cross in Aurora. Our chapter did volunteer projects at the Fitzsimmons Army Hospital during the height of the fighting in Vietnam. In our own small way, we did what we could to make the lives of the wounded soldiers a little easier. The wounded were mostly amputees critically injured after having stepped on mines and booby traps while in pursuit of an elusive enemy in the jungles of South Vietnam.”

“As the support for the Vietnam War was lost so to was the support for those who fought there. In the latter years of the war, these soldiers were neither welcomed home nor thanked by the American people for their tremendous sacrifices our nation’s leaders asked of them. Once stabilized at Fitzsimmons, the same elected leaders who sent them off to war relegated these soldiers to substandard VA-run hospitals where the moral obligation to care for them was quickly forgotten.”

“My memories of Fitzsimmons will always be with me and so will my commitment to make sure that those coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan are never treated like those who returned from Vietnam so many years ago.”

Coffman served in both the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps. He is the only sitting Member of Congress to have served in both the first Gulf War and the Iraq War.