(WASHINGTON) - U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) a Marine Corps combat veteran and member of the House Armed Services Committee, issued the following statement today regarding the formal end of the Iraq War.

“Today is a great day. I am so relieved to see the U.S. military involvement in Iraq come to an end today after nine years of fighting. During my tour of duty in Iraq, I was honored to have met so many young men and women who proudly served our country and I will never forget their extraordinary sacrifices.

"I resigned from the State Treasurer’s office in 2005 to return to the U.S. Marine Corps to go to Iraq not because I believed that invading Iraq was the right course of action for the United States, but because I believed that once the decision had been made that the United States had a obligation to finish the job.

"I will always be proud of my service to my country in Iraq but I also remain deeply opposed to nation building operations and if there is anything that I accomplish during my tenure on the House Armed Services Committee it will be to make sure that our nation never goes down this path again.”

U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) of the 6th Congressional District has a combined 21 years of military service between the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, U.S. Marine Corps, and the Marine Corps Reserve. Coffman is a combat veteran from both the first Gulf War and the Iraq War.

# # #

Published December 15, 2011