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Pharmacy Dedication--Columbia Falls Vet Home

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(2) Subject*

DOCUMENT DATE*: 11/28/2000
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* "required information"
Good afternoon, and thanks for that introduction.

It's great to be here this afternoon to commemorate yet another chapter in the distinguished history of the Columbia Falls vets home.

The pharmacy we're dedicating today will benefit residents of the home, vets of the greater Flathead area and, in the future, students of the UM pharmacy school, who will get training here.
Over a hundred years ago, when Montana’s 4th legislative session was tasked with establishing a residence for ailing veterans of the Civil and Indian Wars, Columbia Falls was one of over a dozen communities that made the short list.

Well, Columbia Falls leaders took their efforts to bring the home here seriously, and the city donated over half of the funds to establish it here. And in its over hundred years of service, the home has served thousands of veterans, from the Indian and Civil Wars to the Spanish-American to both World Wars. Now the home cares for vets from Korea and Vietnam.
The home also cared for some of Montana's most
distinguished citizens, including former Governor Hugo
Aronson, the Galloping Swede, who died here in 1978.

And recently the vets home lost Mel Ruder. Mel
was founder and editor of the Hungry Horse News and
won a Pulitzer Prize in 1965 for his reporting and
photography of the 1964 flood in northwest Montana.

But no matter who the Vets home has cared for
and when, it has always served as an example of how
the town of Columbia Falls, the State of Montana, and
the Federal Government can work together for the
common good of veterans.
Today's dedication is no exception, with an agreement by the State of Montana and the VA to bring lower-cost pharmaceuticals to the veterans who so richly deserve them.

Thank you again for coming, and thank you for the opportunity to be part of this dedication.