

President Floyd Donaldson, Breakfast Chairman Oliver Gilliam, Breakfast Co-Chairman Clorius L. Lay, Master of Ceremonies Alfred Hammond, Melvin Ward, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to making Northwest Indiana a better place for all who live and work there.

SALUTING THE TENNESSEE ARMY
NATIONAL GUARD'S 168TH MILITARY
POLICE BATTALION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an outstanding group of men and women—the Tennessee Army National Guard's 168th Military Police Battalion of Lebanon, TN. On Sunday, February 5, the 168th will receive the Valorous Unit Award at a special presentation at the Armory in Lebanon.

The Valorous Unit Award is one of the Nation's most prestigious military awards. It is presented to units of the Armed Forces of the United States for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing force. To receive this award, a unit must have performed with marked distinction under difficult and hazardous conditions in accomplishing its mission so as to set it apart from, and above, other units participating in the same conflict. Its equivalent in individual awards is the Silver Star.

I know all Tennesseans, and all Americans, join with me in thanking the 168th for their bravery, their commitment and their selfless service while in Iraq.

The 168th received its award for performance of duties from May 20, 2003 through January 31, 2004. While they performed many duties, some of their key accomplishments during their service were to establish law and order operations in all of east Baghdad, establish Iraqi police stations, train Iraqi police officers and establish an Iraqi police academy. The battalion coordinated numerous offensive operations and patrols within its area of operations under very austere conditions. They were responsible for confiscating numerous weapons caches, counterfeit money, and ammunition. And they frequently provided escort and security service to convoys in the region.

During their service, the 168th Battalion and its subordinate units receive numerous Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts, and Army Commendation Medals for Valor. Their service was one that required heroism and courage on a daily basis.

I am honored to serve as the Congressman for Lebanon and privileged to represent these men and women in Washington. We are all blessed to live in the greatest country in the history of the world. And we are particularly blessed that men and women, like the members of Tennessee's 168th Military Police Battalion, willingly put their lives on the line every day so that we may continue to enjoy freedom here at home.

Words cannot adequately thank the members of the 168th for their exceptional service. But I want to take this moment, and this occa-

sion of their Valorous Unit Award presentation, to salute them on behalf of all Americans for their heroic service to our country and to freedom around the world.

HONORING ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY
ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor as a community St. Xavier University and to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. St. Xavier is located in Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood.

When founded in 1846 by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Xavier was a Catholic institution grounded in the tradition of the liberal arts. As one of 18 colleges and universities sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Xavier has evolved into an institution that seeks to provide its students with the meaning of scholarship, the support of the community, and the spirit of moral and ethical sensibility.

Although a Catholic university of approximately 5,700 students, St. Xavier welcomes students of all faiths and religious backgrounds. Because of its rich traditions and commitment to excellence St. Xavier has become one of Chicago's premier collegiate institutions for students studying nursing, business, as well as education.

It is my honor to recognize this school and its many achievements both academically and athletically. In addition, I commend St. Xavier University for fostering the intellectual and cultural growth of the administration, faculty and students who all play a vital role in the success of the university's existence in today's society.

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF GUADALUPE,
ARIZONA ON THE 31ST
ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCORPORATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to the Town of Guadalupe, Arizona, a community in my district which I proudly represent, on the occasion of the 31st Anniversary of its incorporation. Named after the patron saint of Mexico, the Virgin of Guadalupe, this culturally-rich community is home to about 5,500 residents.

Guadalupe was founded by Yaqui Indians around the turn of the century when they fled their traditional homeland along the Yaqui River in Sonora, Mexico to avoid persecution and enslavement by the Mexican government under Porfirio Diaz. When the Yaqui people fled as refugees, many were able to find a home in the Salt River Valley's agricultural economy. One of the villages was in south Tempe, just north of the present Guadalupe site. A missionary Franciscan Friar, Lucius Zittier, petitioned President Woodrow Wilson for 40 acres of land so the Yaqui could permanently settle. The site, undesirable as

uncultivable, is located in the center of the present community, known as "La Cuarenta," or "The 40," as some still call it today.

Guadalupe also became home to many Hispanic families over the years, and it has become a stopping point for Mexican immigrant workers. As the community has grown, it has demonstrated its resilience in the face of difficult economic times, poverty, and racism.

Many young men of Mexican and Yaqui descent answered the call for military service and defended our country. Dozens of Guadalupe veterans' names are on the rolls of those who served, and many paid the ultimate sacrifice.

In the early 1960s, Guadalupe Organization, Inc., was formed and it began to identify and address the community's needs. Many services taken for granted in other communities were not provided in Guadalupe and residents began to get organized. A new voting precinct in Guadalupe was formed, and U.S. Sen. Carl Hayden was instrumental in securing home mail delivery for residents. As the Guadalupe Organization advocated for community betterment and educated residents about civil awareness, many small victories were achieved for the community. The organization prevented a freeway from being built through the center of Guadalupe, opened a dental clinic with volunteer dentists, fought discrimination against Guadalupe students, and most notably, led the charge for incorporation.

Neighboring cities had mostly rebuffed Guadalupe and its residents until property values soared. To stop annexation attempts and preserve their community's rich culture, the Guadalupe Organization began incorporation efforts and the Citizens Committee to Incorporate Guadalupe was formed. It was led by Mr. Andres "Andy" Jimenez, who served as president of the group. Election results of Feb. 4, 1975, which showed an 83 percent voter turnout, approved the plan of incorporation, and the Town of Guadalupe was born.

Since then, the Town of Guadalupe has been a leader in demonstrating concern for its residents and passing progressive policies. The Town Council was the first in Arizona to ban smoking in public places. It declared a paid Cesar Chavez Holiday for Guadalupe town employees. The town has also donated land for construction of educational and recreational entities.

Maricopa County Community Colleges also have established a branch of South Mountain Community College in Guadalupe with its rental fee subsidized for many years by the Guadalupe Organization. Guadalupe had one college graduate in 1960 and one in 1967. Now graduates at all levels, from high school to Ph.D., call Guadalupe their home.

As you can see, Guadalupe is a community rich with the traditions of three cultures, deeply devoted to the welfare of its residents, and the prosperity of its community. As the former director of the Guadalupe Organization, I feel a special bond to this community and take great pride in its progress. This bond is felt by many, as children follow in their parents' footsteps, opting to make a home in Guadalupe as they begin to make a life of their own. Ironically, the current Mayor of Guadalupe is Ms. Bernadette Jimenez, daughter of Andy Jimenez, who led the Citizens Committee to Incorporate Guadalupe.

In honor of the success of this community and its residents, I ask my colleagues to