project along San Timoteo Creek—projects of immense importance to our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, we recently learned that Bob Joe will soon retire from the corps. We ask you and all of our colleagues to join us and expressing our gratitude for his years of tremendous service to southern California and the Southwest, and wishing him well in his future professional endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on February 10, I was in Alabama attending to pressing personal matters and was unable to cast my vote in favor of H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act. As an original cosponsor of this legislation and supporter of past efforts to repeal this onerous tax, I am very pleased that this measure passed with such bipartisan support.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on the rule (roll 12) and on final passage (roll 15); and I would have voted ''no'' on the Rangel Substitute (roll 13) and the motion to recommit (roll 14).

HONORING FRANK MILFORD MILLIGAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause in remembrance of Frank Milford Milligan who died on November 7, 1999.

Mr. Milligan was born on October 24, 1925, in Beulah, Colorado, to Cecil Milligan and Elta Parker. Mr. Milligan attended grade school in Beulah and high school in Cortez. In January of 1944, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served for two years. After his service in the Navy, he returned to Cortez to reside.

Following his return from the military, Mr. Milligan went to work as a farm hand. He was a member of the Ute Mountain American Legion Post 375 and enjoyed socializing with his fellow members at the post. Mr. Milligan will always be remembered as a man that loved to spend time with his family and doing family activities.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Frank Milford Milligan, a great American and friend.

HAIDER AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues and submits for the RECORD this February 10, 2000, opinion column from the Financial Times regarding Jorg Haider.

WHY EUROPE WOULD LIKE HAIDER TO DISAPPEAR

The rightwing Austrian politician is a threat only because he has highlighted problems that are common to the rest of the EU

(By Quentin Peel)

Why on earth are we so worried about Jorg Haider?

The leader of Austria's inappropriately-named Freedom party is nothing more than a lightweight provincial politician, a plausible populist more notable for changing his opinions by the hour than for any consistency of fanatical thought.

One moment he is in favour of the European Union, the next he is a passionate Eurosceptic. One day he shows some sympathy for the Nazi regime in Germany, and the next he condemns it. He is an erratic gadfly with a grin, who has cynically exploited the widespread hostility to immigrants in the Austrian provinces, and the wider resentment of a political establishment that has carved up all the public sector jobs in Vienna.

Yet the appearance of his party in the Austrian government has united the rest of the European Union in a chorus of condemnation. He is in danger of being demonised as a reincarnation of Adolf Hitler, when he should instead be treated with disdain and contempt.

The year 2000 is not 1933, and the prosperous citizens of Austria are scarcely the embittered unemployed of Germany between the wars. The democratic institutions of post-war western Europe are surely resilient enough to resist the blandishments of a half-baked extremist.

Yet the truth is that Mr. Haider, in himself, is not the problem. The international overreaction is driven by fear of contamination in other parts of the EU. He is a symbol, and many of the causes of his popularity are present in most of the states of the union.

Austria is not alone in demonstrating resentment of a tired and corrupt political establishment, a fear of excessive immigration, and growing uncertainty about what enlargement of the EU will mean for the cozy lifestyle of the present member states.

Germany and France both took a lead in the decision by the rest of the EU to freeze bilateral relations with Austria, and with good reason. Both have been hit by a series of political scandals, threatening an upsurge in public disgust with the political process. Scarcely a European country has been unaffected by allegations of illicit or corrupt party financing.

As for immigration and EU enlargement, neither may be quite as big an issue as it is in Austria, but they could easily be exploited by a rabble-rouser in most EU countries. All the EU governments have gone a long way to tighten up controls on immigration and asylum-seekers, in precisely the direction that Mr. Haider demands, for fear of a backlash.

Enlargement, now intended eventually to bring 13 new members into the EU, may be officially supported by all the present governments, but their voters remain decidedly skeptical. EU leaders will have to go out and sell the idea, with passion and conviction, or they could face an upsurge in xenophobia at the polls.

If and when enlargement happens, as I fervently hope it does, it will change the EU substantially. The only way to accommodate such a wide variety of member states, at very differing political and economic stages of development, will be to build much more flexibility into the system. Somehow it has to be adapted to preserve the single market, without forcing the new members into instant bankruptcy. The high standards of developed west European economies cannot be adopted overnight in the east.

Nor is it simply a matter of economics. The accession candidates are all relatively fragile democracies. Most have only recently recovered their full sovereignty from the former Soviet empire. There are unresolved ethnic conflicts, and minority rights issues, within their borders. They could well spark the emergence of nationalist movements at least as unattractive as the Freedom party of Mr. Haider.

All these profound issues raised by EU enlargement are supposed to be tackled by the intergovernmental conference (IGC) of the present 15 member states, which opens next Monday. They are supposed to be streamlining the institutions so that they remain workable with as many as 28 members. Yet the chances are that the IGC will stick to a very narrow agenda, and leave the EU ill-prepared for the revolution to come.

Romano Prodi, president of the European Commission, says the prospect of more Haiders in an enlarged EU makes it all the more necessary to take most decisions by majority voting, not unanimity. Yet majority decisions enforced on unhappy minorities could be a formula for breeding more Haiders. The answer must be more flexible arrangements, more devolution of power, and a minimum of rules.

If an enlarged EU is going to hold together, and enjoy the support of its inhabitants, it is going to have to be rather more than a glorified common market. It does not have to be the federal super-state that British Eurosceptics fear and loathe. But it will have to be a community of common values.

That is why the initiative running in parallel with the IGC may ultimately prove more important: the drafting of a Charter of Fundamental Rights. This should be clear, concise and easily intelligible. It does not have to add any exotic new rights that are not already present in the EU treaty and the European convention of human rights. But it should spell out the minimum rights and freedoms to which all member states of the union will be committed. It should also spell out what will happen if they transgress.

For the advent of Mr. Haider in Austria is surely only a foretaste of the challenges to come in an enlarged EU. The member states need a clear yardstick by which to judge the acceptable behaviour of any government—a yardstick that voters can read and understand before they vote. That might discourage them from voting for anti-democratic extremists. And it might restrain the other member states from ad hoc overreactions.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER FRED

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I and many, many residents of northern Michigan continue to mourn the passing of the Rev. Edwin Frederick, our beloved Father Fred, who affected so many lives by the simple act of tending and caring for those in need.

It may be misleading, Mr. Speaker, to describe Father Fred's work as simple. The simple act of sharing is to offer a hungry man half one's loaf of bread. The simple act of caring is to put one's own coat over the shoulders of a child shivering with a cold.

Father Fred went much further than that. The foundation he created has provided food, clothing and other basic necessities to literally