

AIR SHOW TRAGEDY IN LVIV,
UKRAINE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the victims of the world's worst air show disaster. On July 27th, a Ukrainian SU-27 fighter jet crashed into a crowd of spectators at an air show outside Lviv in Western Ukraine, killing 85, including 23 children, and wounding 116 more. The plane's two pilots lost control of the fighter during complicated maneuvers and managed to eject just before impact. The severity of injuries varied and many still remain hospitalized, while the cause of the crash is being investigated.

Considering there were thousands of spectators attending the air show, the damage could have been much worse. However, given the recent series of tragic accidents in Ukraine, most significantly, several deadly mine explosions, I commend the spirit of the Ukrainian people and their resilience in the face of overwhelming tragedy. I also offer my prayers and profound condolences to those families having suffered losses of loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, the entire world witnessed during the September 11th attacks on this Nation. Oftentimes when people are faced with tragedy and adversity, there are also extraordinary actions of heroism and generosity. Within the first hours following the air show tragedy, the Ukrainian Federation of America mobilized international relief efforts. They coordinated with medical institutions and individual physicians and technicians who agreed to provide medical treatment, relief supplies and transport free of charge. This remarkable humanitarian effort has greatly improved the prognosis for many of the victims. In addition, many Ukrainian-American organizations have established bank accounts to collect donations for a victim-relief fund.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help in this critical endeavor and to pray for the victims and their families to speed their healing.

HONORING GEARDÓID Ó
MAOILEOIN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Gerry Malone, President and past Vice-President of the Irish National Teachers Organization (INTO).

After earning a teaching degree from St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, in 1966, Mr. Malone returned to his local parish as Principal of Bellurgan NS. In recognition of his professionalism and dedication to education, Mr. Malone was later appointed Principal of Rampark NS, the school he attended as a youth. Mr. Malone continued in that capacity for 27 years.

For many years now, Mr. Malone has been active in the INTO. He represented the primary teachers of Cavan, Monaghan, and Louth. As a representative, Mr. Malone has

been actively involved in all the major education issues that have faced the organization.

Outside of work, Mr. Malone enjoys music, musicals, Gaelic games, and traveling. And aside from education, Mr. Malone's other great passion is mountain walking. Mr. Malone and his wife Jo have two children, Clodagh and Feargal. They are the proud grandparents of Aisling and Donal Carthy.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in thanking Mr. Malone for his steadfast commitment to the educational system of Ireland and for his service as President of INTO.

NAVAL MANDATE PRESENTS OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN FARMERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues an important environmental initiative, which impacts the U.S. Navy. In 1987, Congress mandated that the U.S. naval submarines eliminate the dumping of plastic waste by 2008. This requirement presents a unique opportunity for the commercial development of biomass products to replace the use of plastics on our submarines. Further research was done on this subject as a summer project in the 2002 Office of Naval Research (ONR) Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP). This summer, as one of the SEAP participants, Christina Liebner, an incoming Stanford University freshman, authored a report on the viability of biomass products as an alternative to plastics on submarines. Her report suggests that biomass products may offer significant opportunities to aid the Navy in reaching its 2008 mandate but it may also provide new economic markets for corn and soybean farmers. A summary of Christina's report is listed below. I commend it to my colleagues' attention for future consideration about how our nation's farmers can help to solve this environmental mandate for the U.S. Navy.

POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS FOR BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY FLEET AS A METHOD TO MEET MARPOL 73/78, MPPRCA, AND APPS REGULATIONS

(By Christina Liebner)

First implemented in 1983, the international marine pollution prevention agreement known as MARPOL 73/78 dictates that all signing nations must comply with Annexes I and II, which prohibit vessels from dumping oil and bulk noxious liquids, respectively. The United States has further agreed to comply with Annex V, which bans vessels from dumping plastic waste. To enforce this agreement at home and to extend jurisdiction to all vessels in U.S. command (including military vessels) and in U.S. territorial waters and exclusive economic zones, Congress passed Title II in Public Law 100-220—formally titled Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act (MPPRCA)—on 29 December 1987. Written later, the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS) with amendments current to 1 November 1998, requires all Naval surface ships to comply with Annex V by 31 December 1998 and all submarines by 31 December 2008.

The U.S. Navy is currently developing and refining pollution prevention procedures to

process and store plastics onboard. Most surface ships are currently outfitted with at least one Plastic Waste Processor (PWP), and crews have reported success with this method; ships without PWPs find other ways to retain plastic waste. Researchers at the Naval Surface Warfare Center—Carderock Division (NSWC-CD) are currently testing compaction and storage methods for submarine plastic management in four demonstration projects. While surface ship and submarine crews have reported success with their respective waste processes, replacing petroleum-based plastic with biodegradable products may be a more effective and environmentally responsible solution.

While the Navy's current methods to make surface ships and submarines compliant with MARPOL 73/78 and MPPRCA are feasible and successful, they are only short-term solutions. Bioplastic is environmentally responsible, and with enough funding, research, and development, it could soon run at full-scale production levels and become a commercially viable replacement for petroleum-based plastic in most applications. Biodegradable plastic may be the Navy's long term solution to environmental regulation compliance. Additional funding is necessary, however, to launch demonstration of feasibility projects and to further research in bioplastic applications within the Navy. Although bioplastic products offer the most convenience to submarine waste processing, biodegradable plastic is just as applicable and as beneficial to surface ships.

Not only would further research and development to promote biodegradable plastic help the Navy, but the nation would also profit from such technology. The following lists the key advantages of bio-based plastics:

Corn farmers often overproduce, and as agricultural biotechnology advances to further increase crop yield, productivity will double in the near future. Bio-based technology provides another market for corn crops.

Commercializing bio-based plastics from domestically grown crops allows American citizens to profit and releases pressure to import petroleum from the Middle East.

Biodegradable plastic encourages the growth of municipal composting plants and slows accumulation of trash in landfills.

Production and use of biodegradable plastic create much less air pollution and greenhouse gases than petroleum-based plastic. Plants create their carbohydrates from atmospheric carbon dioxide. Bioplastic factories extract this carbon to create the polymer. When biodegradable plastics decompose, the released carbon dioxide is returned to the atmosphere, thus completing the cycle. Petroleum products use carbon compounds from the ground and release them into the air; no new carbon dioxide is introduced to the air with biodegradable polymers.

After the necessary parts of crops are used to create the biodegradable polymer, residual biomass can be burned cleanly to generate energy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FALLEN
OREGON FIREFIGHTERS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to the life and memory of five courageous firefighters. The wildfires, that have swept through Colorado, Oregon and other western states, have engulfed thousands of acres, requiring the assistance of brave