

with a 49–15 win over Regis High School. This is the only time an Oregon public school has managed to win three straight state championships. The Warriors amassed an amazing 583 yards of total offense and held Regis to 67 rushing yards. I want to extend my warm congratulations to Coach Jeff Flood for another successful year.

The players, their families, their coaches, and their communities have all contributed to this fabulous football season. It is an honor and privilege to represent such talented athletes and I with them continued success in academics, sports, and their future lives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT C.
PROPHATER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and work of Dr. Robert C. Prophater following his half-century service to his fellow man, as a physician, a leader and as a father. During his fifty year career, Dr. Prophater worked to improve the health and well-being of his community both as a doctor and as Vice President of Corporate Medical Affairs for Bay Health Systems in his home town of Bay City, Michigan.

For more than five decades, Dr. Prophater has applied his healing hands to the medical needs of those under his care. His dedication and devotion to the precepts of the Hippocratic oath serve as a model for younger physicians and those considering entering this honorable profession. Indeed, one has to look no farther than Dr. Prophater's family to find an example of his influence in drawing others to the medical profession. His son, Dr. Robert C. Prophater Jr., has followed in his footsteps and is also practicing medicine and saving lives.

During his long and venerable career, Dr. Prophater has taken seriously his duty to share his vast knowledge and experience with his colleagues as an active member of numerous medical boards and medical associations throughout the state of Michigan and the entire Midwest. Of all of these honors, perhaps closest to his heart was his tenure on the Board of Directors of the Bay Medical Center in his home town of Bay City, including a four year term as Board President.

While Dr. Prophater above all deserves our praise for his dedication to medicine, he has also made a tremendously positive impact on Bay City, where he has lived and worked since moving from Ohio in 1958. His civic involvement epitomizes the spirit of public service to which all citizens should aspire, but few ever achieve. During his time serving Bay City, Dr. Prophater volunteered his talents and intellect to the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, the local advisory board for a professional football league, to the board of a local college and a host of other activities. In the classic American civic tradition, he also served his community in the political arena, including a stint as President of the Bay City Commission. His accolades are many, including the Michigan State Medical Society Community Service Award and induction into the Saginaw

Valley Chapter of Commerce Hall of Fame in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, I earnestly hope my colleagues will join me today in publicly honoring Dr. Robert C. Prophater with the official gratitude of the United States House of Representatives for a lifetime of contributions to the health and welfare of his community, his state and his family.

CONTINUING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as we close out the 106th Congress, the Government Reform Committee, which I am proud to serve as Chairman, is continuing several health care oversight activities.

Last year we began a review of this nation's vaccine immunization program. While childhood immunizations have been lauded as one of the greatest advances in public health of the twentieth century, we have learned that there is a paucity of research evaluating the long term safety of these vaccines, particularly as they are currently given to babies, six shots in one day. We also have learned that the epidemic rise in pervasive developmental delays including autism may be unrecognized adverse effect of vaccines. Research conducted in England discovered that autistic children, who also suffer with chronic diarrhea and bowel disorders, have the measles virus in their bowel. We also learned that many of these vaccines are made with the preservative thimerosal. Thimerosal is a derivative of mercury, which is a known neurotoxin. We learned that mercury toxicity has very similar symptoms to autism. Many children who are treated for mercury toxicity show an improvement in the autistic symptoms.

I have asked the Department of Health and Human Services to recall vaccines that contain thimerosal since most of the vaccines on the childhood immunization schedule are now available without thimerosal. However, thus far, they are satisfied with allowing companies to continue to sell these vaccines and putting 8,000 children in the United States at risk for mercury toxicity. As part of this investigation we looked at the advisory committees at the Centers for Disease Control and at the Food and Drug Administration and found that many of the individuals appointed as advisory council members had significant financial ties to the pharmaceutical companies that manufacture the vaccines under consideration. The report of our findings is on the Committee website.

As part of our vaccine investigation, we looked at the Defense Department's Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program. We found that this well-intentioned program had many problems and I have supported legislation that would halt the program. The existing anthrax vaccine manufactured by Bioport Inc. in Lansing, Michigan was licensed in 1970 to protect against cutaneous exposure to the anthrax. It was not originally licensed to protect against inhalation anthrax. While the label states that less than one percent of individuals who receive the vaccine will suffer an adverse

events, each of the prospective studies that have been done have shown that in excess of twenty percent of those who receive the vaccine suffer an adverse event. Many of these events have proven difficult to treat and are very similar to those seen in Gulf War Syndrome. An investigation conducted by the General Accounting Office indicates that the mandatory AVIP program has resulted in a significant morale and retention problem.

There are some that think that because I have dared to initiate an oversight investigation into vaccines, that I am anti-vaccine. Nothing could be further from the truth. I believe that safe and effective vaccines should be made available to everyone with full declaration of the benefits and the risks involved. I also believe that we need to do more research to determine who will be at risk for adverse events and that just because a vaccine is licensed does not mean it needs to be added to the children's immunization schedule to be mandated at the state level. We saw with the rotashield vaccine investigation that the move to put this vaccine on the schedule took place before the vaccine was even licensed. There is concern we have gone too far in our desire to protect the public at large from infectious diseases by mandating every vaccine that is licensed instead of only those that are truly significant health concerns in this country. There is a tremendous difference between the consequences of polio and those of chicken pox.

Also during the 106th Congress, we have conducted an investigation into the role of complementary and alternative medicine in our health care system. Americans are increasingly turning to therapies such as acupuncture, massage therapy, chiropractics, naturopathy, touch and energy therapies, herbal medicine, traditional healing systems such as Ayurveda, Tibetan Medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Native American medicine, mind-body techniques, aromatherapy, nutrition, and music therapy to improve their health. We have conducted numerous hearings looking at ways to improve cancer care through the integration of complementary and alternative medicine in oncology.

I was pleased to introduced H.R. 3677 the Thomas Navarro FDA Patients Rights act this past spring. Four year old Thomas, who was shown to the world by Ambassador Alan Keyes during the Republican debates, was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, was denied access to a non-toxic cancer treatment by the FDA because he had not first gone through and failed chemotherapy and radiation. After his initial surgery, Thomas' parents, Jim and Donna Navarro, looked at the benefits and risks of these two treatments and found that the success rates had been overestimated and that the risks were too much to ask of them without first trying something less risky. We learned that of the three chemotherapy drugs which are routinely recommended to treat this cancer, two of them clearly state on their label that they have not been proven to be safe and effective in the pediatric population. In other words, the drug had not gone through the rigors of an FDA approval process for treating medulloblastoma or for use in children. I am very concerned that the FDA will force cancer patients into treatments they as an agency have not evaluated while denying them access to a clinical trial that the FDA is monitoring. I was pleased that many of my