

Although born 200 years ago, Daniel Pratt serves as a shining example of a pioneer spirit which transformed the South into a thriving industrial center. His leadership, vision, courage, and generosity is an inspiration to everyone.●

SISTER JANE: A CHAMPION FOR THE POOR

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the work of an extraordinary woman from the state of New Jersey, Sister Jane Frances Brady.

Sister Jane, as she is widely known, has been a tireless advocate on behalf of the poor and uninsured. She has done this most visibly through her 26-year tenure as both president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey.

Mr. President, as many of my colleagues know, Paterson is my home town and I am privileged to be able to call Sister Jane a good and longtime friend. Sister Jane has just recently stepped down from her position as president, and will leave her post as CEO of St. Joseph's by the summer. I know that she will be sorely missed there.

But Sister Jane is not leaving health care altogether. She will be the new executive vice president of Via Caritas Health System in Parsippany.

The combination of Sister Jane's tough administrative style and endless compassion has enhanced St. Joseph's facilities and reputation immensely. During her time there, the hospital has excelled in providing care for people living with HIV, newborns, bone marrow transplant candidates, patients needing open-heart surgery and trauma victims.

Mr. President, one of the most important things that Sister Jane has done through her work at St. Joseph's is to care for poor children. A huge part of fighting that battle is waging a campaign to provide health insurance coverage for those children. I would like to share with my colleagues a recent editorial in the Bergen Record about Sister Jane, and her fearless courage to fight for the right of the urban poor population to have access to adequate health care.

Mr. President, I congratulate Sister Jane on all her hard work at St. Joseph's, and wish her well in her new position at Via Caritas.

Mr. President, I ask that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Bergen Record, Jan. 12, 1999]

SISTER JANE STEPS DOWN

An estimated 290,000 children in New Jersey go without medical insurance. So last year, when the Whitman administration withdrew some funding for a health-care program for uninsured children because of lower-than-expected enrollment, Sister Jane Frances Brady, president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson, was furious.

With the help of St. Joseph's, Passaic County alone had registered more than 1,400 children—nearly one-fifth of the statewide enrollment up until that point. "If we did that, why can't the state do as much?" Sister Jane asked.

Stung by criticism from Sister Jane and others, the state initiated a massive advertising campaign to sign up uninsured children. It included mass mailings, advertisements, and a radio spot by Governor Whitman.

Sister Jane has always expected others to work as hard for the poor as she does, and that applied to state officials as well as St. Joseph's employees. In addition to championing the urban poor during her 26 years at St. Joseph's, Sister Jane has transformed the hospital into a regional health-care hub that attracts patients statewide for services such as high-risk births and open heart surgery.

Earlier this month, Sister Jane stepped down as president. Patrick Wardell, the hospital's new executive vice president, will run the hospital on a day-to-day basis, but the 63-year-old nun will continue as CEO until July. At that point, she will assume full-time her role as executive vice president of Via Caritas Health System in Parsippany. Via Caritas is a Catholic health-care system—formed in 1997—that has St. Joseph's as its largest hospital member.

Sister Jane set a fine example for dedication and leadership at St. Joseph's. Prior to suffering a small stroke in 1997, she had never taken a sick day. And under her leadership St. Joseph's became one of the most financially sound hospitals in the state. Although she will remain a tireless voice for compassion for the less fortunate, her day-to-day involvement in the medical care of the poor in Paterson will be missed.●

100 YEARS OF SPARTAN BASKETBALL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my alma mater, Michigan State University, as their basketball program celebrates its centennial season. Over the course of the last century, Spartan basketball has been a tremendous source of pride for the Michigan State student body and its vast alumni network. A splendid representative of the Big Ten conference since 1951, MSU is one of the premier college basketball programs in the nation. MSU basketball has produced 45 NBA draft picks, among them some of the greatest players in the history of the game.

The many great teams and coaches that have graced the floor of the Jenison Field House and Breslin Center should be very proud of the tradition of excellence that they have built. The accomplishments of Michigan State's basketball program are tremendous: 15 First-Team All-Americans, seven Big Ten championships, four Big Ten players of the year, 12 NCAA Tournament appearances, and one National Championship.

I extend my warmest regards and best wishes to the 1998 National Coach of the Year, Tom Izzo, and all current Spartan players. I also applaud all past coaches, players, and supporters of Spartan Basketball's first one hundred years. I hope the next century is as exciting and successful as the first.●

TRIBUTE TO GORDON M. SHERMAN

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Gordon Sherman, of Dunwoody, Georgia, who after more than four decades of dedicated service to the Social Security Administration retired on December 31, 1998. He is an outstanding example to his family and friends, and has been an asset to the many communities that he has touched over the years.

Gordon has more than 40 years of combined military and civilian federal service. He began working for the Social Security Administration in 1958 and has served as the Southeast Regional Commissioner to the Social Security Administration (SSA) since October 1975. In this role, he has been responsible for supervision, coordination, executive leadership, and effective and efficient administration of the Social Security program in the eight southeastern states.

As a career senior governmental executive, he has received many awards in honor of his noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding leadership over the years. Several of Gordon's most prestigious awards are the U.S. Army Legion of Merit medal, two Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Awards, the National Public Service Award from the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) and the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), the coveted Ewell T. Bartlett National Award for Humanity in Government, and the national "Making the King Holiday Award" from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission for his assistance in making this holiday a reality.

As a native of Alabama, he graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. degree and received J.D. and LL.M. degrees, as well as an honorary LL.D from Woodrow Wilson College of Law and completed the Senior Managers in Government (SMG) program at the John F. KENNEDY School of Government at Harvard University. Gordon and his wife Miriam are also associated with several business, educational, professional, civic, service and volunteer organizations in the Dunwoody area.

Mr. President, I would like to honor and commend Gordon Sherman for his outstanding and innumerable contributions over the years to the State of Georgia and to our entire Nation, and ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting and congratulating Gordon on his retirement. Gordon, you truly are a great American, and I wish you many more joyous years in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women who risked their lives fighting in the Persian Gulf War.

February 27 marks the eighth anniversary of the end of the Persian Gulf War and the liberation of Kuwait. After

seven months of Iraqi occupation resulting in a six-week war, and cumulating in 100 hours of land attacks, Iraq was forced to withdraw from Kuwait. When it was all over, 697,000 U.S. troops had been deployed to the area and had helped gain freedom for the Kuwaitis. We honor the courageous men and women who fought in the war and especially those who lost their lives while fighting to protect the ideals America stands for; that is, freedom and liberty for all.

As Americans, we enjoy many freedoms. When our Forefathers declared independence from Britain, they cited the "right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as the rights of all citizens. These inalienable rights cannot be taken away by anyone. After America won its independence and had drafted a constitution, a section was added to secure certain rights of all Americans. This addendum was called the Bill of Rights, and it ensures all citizens freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Unfortunately, we sometimes take these freedoms for granted and forget that not all people around the world enjoy the same inalienable rights that we do, nor can they protect themselves from aggressors who threaten to take away their liberty.

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, he took away their freedom and threatened to oppress the people. As a promotor of freedom and liberty, the United States stepped in to defend the rights of Kuwaitis. Although war is a grave option, all people deserve the chance to live without oppression. Before turning to war, our first move is to find a solution peacefully through negotiations. Yet, sometimes this option fails. As much as we want to achieve world peace through diplomatic means, the unfortunate reality is that sometimes we face many complicated international problems, which must be dealt with in other ways.

Because of the actions of Saddam Hussein, the Persian Gulf War was unavoidable. The U.S. Armed Forces came together with our Allies to fight for the rights of the people of Kuwait. We should be proud of the heroic men and women, including the members of the Minnesota Reserve and Guard, who fought for the freedom of others. These men and women put their lives on the line without hesitation.

Mr. President, eight years ago, American soldiers bravely won freedom for a small country in the Middle East. I am honored today to pay tribute to these courageous men and women who fought in the Persian Gulf War.●

TRIBUTE TO BARNEY DWYER

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to friend and former colleague in Congress, Bernard Dwyer. Barney, as he was affectionately known, was a devoted public servant and respected New Jerseyan,

having served 12 years in the House of Representatives.

Mr. President, you might not know how devoted he actually was, since he never delivered a speech on the floor of the House. But Barney was proud of that record.

He worked proudly, and tirelessly, behind the scenes in Congress as a member of the House Appropriations Committee to fund myriad projects for New Jersey and for the country. Only some of the examples of his hard work was his support of AMTRAK and New Jersey's transportation funding needs, his backing of an alcohol abuse program at Rutgers University, and his assistance in helping the Red Cross receive grants for AIDS education programs. Whether he was improving sidewalks, street lamps, public schools or community park paths, Barney approached his work with the same diligence and passion.

Mr. President, Barney began his career over forty years ago, serving as councilman and mayor in Edison, New Jersey. He then served as a state senator of New Jersey for six years, acting as both senate majority leader and as chairman of the Legislature's joint appropriations committee.

Before going into politics, Barney also served in World War II. He was the believed to be the only member of Congress to have survived the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Mr. President, Barney Dwyer stood out in New Jersey's political community as warm, compassionate, modest, even humble. He was an honorable statesman and a man of the highest integrity. And he will be sorely missed.

I would like to send my sincerest condolences to Barney's family.●

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Women's Resource Center of Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties in Pennsylvania for providing more than 20 years of shelter and counseling to adults and children who have been victims of violence at the hands of family members, partners or someone else they know.

The Center will display a memorial exhibit, "An Empty Place at the Table," in the Rotunda of the Senate Russell Building on February 24 and 25 to ensure that the brutal deaths of women and children are not forgotten.

In the United States a woman is beaten by her partner or former partner every 12 seconds, and, according to the FBI, 26 percent of all female murder victims are killed by their husbands or boyfriends.

The Women's Resource Center, established in 1977, has demonstrated a commitment to their community by providing more than 18,000 hours of crisis services. These services include a 24

hour hotline, an emergency shelter, crisis counseling and advocacy to more than 2,000 adults and children each year, as well as numerous hours of educational programming with the legal system, schools, businesses, professionals and faith communities on the dynamics of abuse and assault. The Center provides their services under the strictest confidentiality and free of charge and discrimination.

Mr. President, the Center's memorial exhibit reveals how violence undeniably leaves an empty place at the table. I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending the Women's Resource Center for its leadership and commitment to restoring the fundamental right to live free from fear in our own homes.●

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on rollcall votes No. 17 and No. 18, I am recorded as voting "not guilty." I ask that the RECORD reflect that, in fact, when the roll was called, I stood and voted, "not proven, therefore not guilty" on both votes.●

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: No. 6 and 7, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk and the Coast Guard. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were agreed to.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

William Clyburn, Jr., of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2000.

Wayne O. Burkes, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2002.

IN THE COAST GUARD

Coast Guard nomination of George W. Molessa, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 3, 1999.

Coast Guard nominations beginning James W. Kelly, and ending John J. Santucci, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 3, 1999.

Coast Guard nominations beginning James E. Malene, and ending Steven M. Wischmann, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 3, 1999.