

for fifty gins, put the same on wagons, and in 1833, he with his brave wife headed for Alabama."

Daniel Pratt rapidly met the success he foresaw in his move to Alabama. He found quick sales among the planters of the Alabama Black Belt. He established a temporary site for his factory along Autauga Creek and immediately began to expand his operations. Within a period of five years, it was evident that he needed a larger area for a permanent site. He chose to settle on a marshy, heavily wooded piece of land only three miles from his original site. In only ten years, he turned this hostile area into a thriving manufacturing village of eight hundred people. This is the site that would eventually form the booming industrial town of Prattville.

Initially, the Gin Factory was the corner stone of the economy in the new settlement. But as business grew, Daniel Pratt reinvested the profits into new industries in the town. By the 1850's, Prattville, for its size, furnished the most diverse industrial pattern in the United States. In addition, the Pratt Gin Company became the largest gin factory in the world, with unrivaled quality in construction. Daniel Pratt's business was so successful, that he began to invest money in the state infrastructure. He presided over railroad conventions and sparked Southern railroad growth with his generous infusion of capital.

Daniel Pratt also used his good fortune to invest in the Red Mountain Iron and Coal Company, and he controlled the Oxmoor iron furnaces in the Birmingham Industrial district. In his honor, the great vein of coal west of Birmingham was named the Pratt Vein, and Pratt City was later incorporated into the town of Birmingham. These furnaces were destroyed by Wilson's Raiders during the Civil War, but Daniel Pratt was determined to rebuild them. With the help of his son-in-law, Henry Debardeleben, he did just that, and by 1873, they were back in operation. The name was changed to the Eureka Mining Company, and the towns of Birmingham and Bessemer began to thrive. Daniel Pratt is credited with being one of the driving forces behind the development of that entire area of the state.

In 1847, the University of Alabama awarded him the degree of Master of Mechanical and Useful Arts, the only one of it's kind the University has ever given. Pratt also served as a distinguished member of the Alabama House of Representatives throughout the duration of the Civil War.

However, it was Daniel Pratt's philanthropic deeds which set him apart from other industrialists of his time. Pratt built schools and churches for workers in his textile mill with his own money. His boundless paternalism towards his workers led him to teach in Prattville's Sunday Schools. It was his

sincere desire to better both the town of Prattville as well as the entire South through his relentless efforts to preach the industrial gospel. He wrote numerous letters and articles professing his industrialist beliefs, which were published in southern newspapers and periodicals across the area.

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