

last existing space on the National Mall.

This museum will commemorate and honor the 400 years of African American history in this country and beyond. Legislation was introduced just about every session of Congress between 1919 and 1929 to create a memorial building to house exhibits demonstrating the achievements of African Americans in art, science, invention and all aspects of life. I am both proud and pleased to be associated with this project and look forward to seeing this legislation signed into law by the President in the near future.

#### THE POLICE CORPS PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. It is my understanding there are concerns with the Police Corps Program. It appears that funding from within the current fiscal year is not being made available to certain States.

Mr. GREGG. I appreciate the minority leader's concerns with Police Corps. I have been told that OMB and the Department of Justice have rectified this situation. Both organizations have agreed that any funds available for Police Corps in fiscal year 2002 and unexpended balances from prior fiscal years will be made available for new programs if currently eligible participants have not used the funding provided for their State.

Mr. STEVENS. I have the same understanding. OMB and Justice have decided that available funds can be used from the current balances. I am glad this issue has been worked out.

Mr. KERRY. I very much appreciate the comments of Senators LOTT, STEVENS, and GREGG concerning the Police Corps program, which provides scholarships on a competitive basis to students who earn their bachelor's degrees, complete approved Police Corps training, and then serve for four years on patrol with law enforcement agencies in areas of great need. The Police Corps gives States funding to provide residential police training and to provide local and State agencies that hire Police Corps officers \$10,000 a year for each of an officer's first 4 years of service. The fiscal year 2002 Senate Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations bill, under the leadership of Chairman HOLLINGS and Ranking Member GREGG, included \$30 million for the Police Corps program. However, I was very disappointed that this amount was reduced to \$14.435 million in the conference report, which included legislative language that the Police Corps program has sufficient unobligated balances available to allow the program to maintain its activities in fiscal year 2002 at the prior year level.

I am very concerned that the Office of Justice Programs is not planning to provide appropriate funding for the Po-

lice Corps program in fiscal year 2002. It is my understanding that the Office of Justice Programs' plan for the Police Corps program could limit the ability of local law enforcement agencies to address violent crime by decreasing the number of officers with advanced education and training who serve on community patrol in high-crime areas. This could negatively affect the Police Corps program in my home State of Massachusetts, which is currently updating its training curriculum to provide the rigorous physical and moral police training that will help Police Corps recruits work effectively in high-crime areas within Massachusetts. As our nation remains on high alert due to recent terrorist attacks, the Police Corps program will play a crucial role in training future policemen and policewomen to stop terrorist activities before they hurt innocent Americans.

It is my understanding that there are unobligated funds available to provide the Police Corps program with the funding necessary to increase the number of recruits above the modest demonstration level of approximately 25 trainees per state per year and to assist in resolving the current backlog of funding requests for the program.

I believe that the Department of Justice should provide such funds as are necessary to maintain the current level of activity in Police Corps operations and to begin to resolve the current backlog of funding requests for the program. I look forward to working with Chairman HOLLINGS, Ranking Member GREGG and others to assure that the Police Corps program is treated fairly by the Office of Justice Programs this year and in future years, and to insure that this important program receives adequate funding in the future.

#### BIOTERRORISM

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the important achievement the Senate has made today in defending our homeland. Just over two months ago, my state of Florida was the site of the first in a series of bioterrorist attacks on our Nation that culminated here in Washington, DC. While the repercussions evolving out of the anthrax attacks on our mail system pale in comparison to the enormous tragedy of September 11, the families of those who suffered tragic deaths after being exposed to anthrax-laced letters and those of us who continue to be displaced on Capitol Hill understand the very real dangers associated with the elusive threat of bioterrorism.

In the wake of the anthrax attacks, we, as a Nation, began to realize that we were not fully prepared to effectively and comprehensively respond to biological threats. The attack in Boca Raton, FL elicited an array of missteps

and symptoms of inadequate preparation at all levels of government. Because Floridians, and Americans, had never faced such a threat before, the necessary communication lines had not been formed and many emergency responders were not properly equipped to handle this new type of crisis. The Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001, passed by the Senate today, is an important first step at increasing our ability to respond to, and prevent, future biological attacks at the Federal, State, and local levels. It will enhance our ability to detect an attack by improving disease surveillance systems and public health laboratories. It will improve our ability to treat victims of an attack by increasing hospital capacity for disease outbreaks. It will also enhance our ability to contain an attack by expanding pharmaceutical stockpiles and accelerating the development of new treatments. Finally, this bill seeks to target future bioterrorist threats in a comprehensive manner by protecting our food sources and other potential targets.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a portion of the bill that I believe is essential to our Nation's coordinated prevention and response initiative. Like many Americans, I sought out additional information about the threat of bioterrorism after anthrax was discovered in Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Washington, DC. In the course of my research efforts, I had the opportunity to visit with some of the professors, researchers, and scientists that work for the University of South Florida Center for Biological Defense. The Center for Biological Defense is a joint project of the University of South Florida College of Public Health and the Florida Department of Health. The Center focuses on a full spectrum of studies and programs, ranging from research and development to outreach and educational seminars. The Center has implemented a multifaceted approach to biological defense research that utilizes a number of universities throughout the state of Florida to implement its studies and projects. The Center for Biological Defense has laboratory programs that are dedicated to improving surveillance systems, developing early detection capabilities, rapidly identifying pathogens, and fully understanding the factors that affect the toxicity of biological agents. Moreover, the Center concentrates on efforts to enhance health care preparedness, to strengthen hospital hygiene and containment capabilities, and to coordinate vital educational and training programs for emergency management and health professionals, which has proven to be a crucial component of the response efforts to the anthrax contamination occurring over the course of the past 2 months.

While the preeminent focus of the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001