minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, another $82 billion for Iraq? Some will say this is to support the troops. If the administration cared about our troops, our troops would not have been begging for body armor and armor-plated vehicles.

Some will say we must rebuild Iraq. Yet $9 billion in funds that would have helped rebuild Iraq are missing, unaccounted for. Some will say we must not cut and run, but they have no exit strategy and permanent bases are being built in Iraq.

Some will say our cause is right, holy, and we are bringing peace and freedom to Iraq. I say the war was wrong, unholy, and the administration has brought death, destruction, chaos, and disruption to Iraq.

The Bible says ''that which is crooked cannot be made straight.'' This war is crooked. It cannot be made straight.

Not another dime for this war and for all those who have profited from it. Not another dime. Vote no on the supplemental appropriations.

HONORING VICTIMS OF ATLANTA COURTHOUSE SHOOTINGS

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of several Georgia residents who were shot and killed last week while doing their jobs at the Fulton County Courthouse in Atlanta.

Friday afternoon a gunman opened fire on the courtroom killing Superior Court Judge Rowland Barnes, Deputy Sergeant Hoyt Teasley, and Court Reporter Julie Ann Brandau. In his attempts to escape police capture, Mr. Nichols also shot and killed Federal Agent David Wilhelm.

The loss of these citizens is felt throughout the Atlanta community. While I am relieved the shooter has finally been captured, his actions leave me deeply saddened and angry.

There is no silver lining in a horrific event like this, but I hope these shootings will encourage other communities in Georgia and across this country to take a long hard look at the security measures in their own public buildings. By ensuring the safety of our public workers, we can help prevent terrible tragedies like this from ever happening again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in mourning the deaths of these Atlanta citizens.

DO NOT SQUANDER SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, we all know that Social Security faces challenges. Fortunately there is no need to change Social Security for current and near-retirees like my parents. They can and should be able to count on 100 percent of the benefits they have earned. But due to longer life spans and fewer workers supporting each retiree, serious problems are on the horizon for future generations like my children.

Social Security faces an unfunded liability of almost $11 trillion. Unless we act today younger workers are going to face either a benefit cut of almost one-third or a 43 percent tax increase by the time they retire. This is unacceptable.

Washington is part of the problem. The Social Security Trust Fund has been raided 59 different times. Benefits have been cut half a dozen times. Payroll taxes have been raised more than 20 times. Clearly the riskiest plan for Social Security is leaving retirees' money in Washington for government to squander.

SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, at a hearing last week the GAO Comptroller General David Walker, a former Social Security trustee, said Social Security privatization would ''exacerbate the solvency problem.''

It would exacerbate the problem by eliminating the Social Security Trust Fund surplus and fail to increase the Nation's savings rate.

In today's economy families are taking on more and more risk. They face uncertain jobs, the loss of health care, jittery financial markets, rising costs of college education. Their retirements are less secure than ever.

Folks like the security that comes with Social Security. This debate is about choosing between privatization and the dismantling of Social Security as we know it or strengthening the guaranteed benefit that comes with Social Security. Rather than dismantling one of the most effective retirement programs in American history, we should be working together to strengthen Social Security for future generations.

In these uncertain times we should be helping American families, not exacerbating the risks that come with retirement. Privatization is simply the wrong direction.

OUR MOST IMPORTANT BUDGET PRIORITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of President George W. Bush, the men and women of our armed forces are winning the war on terrorism. By dedicating their lives to fighting for the American people and stabilizing emerging democracies, our soldiers are protecting our country and defeating the goals of the terrorists. I am grateful for their service.

The President has submitted a supplemental budget request that will dramatically increase funding for body armor, hardened vehicles, and technology to protect our troops in the field. The supplemental also increases the maximum service member group life insurance benefits and the one-time death gratuity for combat fatalities. I strongly support the President's request.

Providing for our troops is the most important budget priority. Congress must deliver the necessary equipment and funding to our troops to ensure they remain safe and successful in their mission. Our family appreciates firsthand Iraq service with our son, Captain Alan Wilson of the South Carolina Army National Guard.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

DROUGHT RELIEF

(Mr. LARSEN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring attention to what can potentially be the worst drought season the State of Washington has experienced in nearly 3 decades.

In my district and throughout the State precipitation levels are hovering at or near record lows. Mountain snow pack levels are at 26 percent of normal averages. Many rivers and streams are flowing at levels well below normal for this time of the year. Unfortunately, it looks as though the worst is yet to come as the National Weather Service has predicted that dry, warm weather will continue through the spring.

If these conditions persist as predicted, the drought will have a devastating impact on our State's agriculture, fishing, and recreation industries and will increase the potential of destructive forest fires this spring and summer.

I would like to commend Washington State's Governor Christine Gregoire for her leadership and foresight in declaring a statewide drought emergency and forming a Drought Emergency Command Center. This emergency declaration will allow the State Department of Ecology to provide assistance and relief, including the issuance of emergency water permits and the temporary transfer of water rights.

The Emergency Command Center will be able to work with State and local agencies to ensure that resources are reaching the areas that need assistance the most. Governor Gregoire has set an example of proactive leadership. I look forward to working with her and