

1975 to 2007, peaking in recession years because of automatic stabilizers.

Let me be clear: I am unalterably opposed to any entitlement reform that deprives seniors, like the ones that reside in the 18th Congressional District of Texas, of benefits they have labored long and hard to earn. To do otherwise would break a promise to prior generations who faithfully paid into the current system. These are not entitlements; they are earned benefits. And they must not be taken away.

And speaking of Texas; recently my hometown of Houston was forced to lay off nearly one thousand municipal employees. When these employees are put on the unemployment line, libraries close, schools cut back on essential after-school programs, community centers lose personnel, police hours are trimmed, and the truly destitute become an afterthought.

Those tough budget decisions had a human cost and I hear from my constituents every day about them. Frankly, I do not want tax cuts for the wealthy at the expense of jobs for working and middle class families in Texas.

The CPC fiscal year 2014 budget alternative stands in clear contrast to the budget that our Republican colleagues have put forward. This budget will reduce the deficit in a balanced and credible way, making difficult choices while providing investments that help create jobs now and build an even stronger economy for the future.

But unlike the Republican budget—which ends the Medicare guarantee while providing enormous tax breaks to millionaires—we ask the very wealthy and special interests to share responsibility for reducing the deficit. We must embark on a truly shared sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues to support the CPC Budget for All Substitute.

---

HONORING TROY ISKE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Troy Iske. Troy is

a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Troy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Troy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Troy has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Troy led a team in refurbishing and painting benches and cleaning the shooting ranges at the Pigeon Hill Conservation Area in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Troy Iske for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.