

PROJECT 2970

Members of the Senate,

Distinguished Guests,

Today, we open what may be the most important session in the history of the Maryland Legislature, a session in which the very nature of state government and the services it is expected to provide will come under greater scrutiny than any time since the summer of 1776.

As this historic session opens, I believe it is important to pause and pay tribute to a member of this body who epitomizes a tenacious attention to the basic principles of representative government.

[ask Fred Malkus to stand]

Fred Malkus has served in the General Assembly since 1947 when he was elected to the House of Delegates. He remained there until 1951 when he was elevated to the Senate. He has been here ever since, serving longer than any other Senator. As one historian, Eugene Meyer describes him: Fred Malkus, "white-haired and red-faced, ... the crusty curmudgeon and dean of the Maryland

Senate"

Fred acts as our parliamentary conscience. He persuades us; he infuriates us; yet he, like us, would, to paraphrase Voltaire, defend to the death our RIGHT to debate him.

Fred's achievements are legion and recognition has taken many forms including a bridge named after him. Today, with your unanimous approbation, I would like to give him a new award which I asked the State Archives to develop. This award focuses attention on the importance of the institutions of government and the people who dedicate their lives to making those institutions work.

Today I present to Fred Malkus the first, "First Citizen Award" of the President of the Senate.

The citation is embellished with a reproduction of a medal struck in honor of Charles Carroll of Carrollton in 1826, and is enclosed in a box containing a book devoted to the lengthy newspaper debate between Charles Carroll of Carrollton and Daniel Dulany in 1773 on the importance of an independent legislature.

The Citation reads:

The President of the Senate of Maryland

FIRST CITIZEN AWARD

Presented to the Honorable Frederick C. Malkus, Jr.,
President Pro Tem

In recognition of his distinguished service to the People and to
the Senate of Maryland

First Citizen was the name that Charles Carroll of Carrollton chose to sign a series of articles published by Anne Catherine Green in the Annapolis Maryland Gazette in 1773. They formed a strong defense of an independent legislature and were among the earliest arguments for a new concept of government based upon traditional community rights and liberties that protected its citizens from arbitrary rule. At the time, Carroll, as a Roman Catholic, could neither vote nor hold public office. With the publication of these articles, Carroll launched a career of public service that would not end until his death at the age of 95 in 1832. In addition to helping draft Maryland's first Constitution and signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Carroll served as President of the Maryland Senate, of which he was a member from 1777 to 1801, and as one of the first United States Senators from Maryland.

To be a First Citizen is to be a dedicated and effective participant in the process of making government work for the benefit of all.

It is with great pleasure and profound respect that I present this award to Senator Malkus.