

*The President of the Senate of the State of Maryland*

*First Citizen  
Award*

*presented to*

*The Honorable Charles H. Smelser*

*Delegate, 1955-1963*

*Senator, 1967-1994*

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

*First Citizen was the name that Charles Carroll of Carrollton chose to sign a series of articles published by Ann Catbarine 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 (1789-1792). 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.*

---

*Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. February 17, 1995  
President of the Senate*