

The Senate of the State of Maryland

First Citizen Award

presented to

Rosalie Silber Abrams

Member of the Maryland Senate, 1970-84

Majority Floor Leader, 1978-82

Member of the House of Delegates, 1967-70

*In recognition of
her distinguished service to the people
of the State of Maryland*

First Citizen is the name that Charles Carroll of Carrollton chose to sign a series of articles published by Ann Catharine Green in the Annapolis Maryland Gazette in 1773. They form 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.

President of the Senate

March 2, 1999