

[Remarks by President Mike Miller
on the occasion of the presentation of *First Citizen Awards* to
Senators Blount, Cade, and Clark,
12 noon, Wednesday January 12, 1994]

Members of the Senate,

Distinguished Guests,

Over the past two years on opening day, with the help of the State Archives, we have established a tradition for the Senate: the presentation of the *First Citizen Award* to distinguished members of this body, past and present.

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.

First Citizen is the name by which Charles Carroll of

Carrollton chose to sign several articles published in the *Annapolis Maryland Gazette* by Ann Catharine Green in 1773.

Carroll strongly defended an independent legislature. He was among the first to advance arguments for a new concept of government based upon traditional community rights and liberties designed to protect citizens from arbitrary and capricious rule.

Ironically, at the time, as a Roman Catholic, Charles Carroll, could neither vote nor hold public office. With the publication of the *First Citizen* 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 a member of

this body from 1777 to 1801 and as its President. He also served as one of the first United States Senators from Maryland and became one of the staunchest advocates of the B & O railroad which did so much to further the economic development of Maryland.

In honor of those members of this body, past and present, who represent the people of Maryland in the best tradition of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, it is my great pleasure to make the *First Citizen Award* to not one, but three people, all of whom have dedicated their lives to making government work for the benefit of all.

As a token of our appreciation, each honoree will receive a handsomely boxed volume like this one, containing Charles Carroll of Carrollton's *First Citizen* essays.

I would like to ask the Majority Leader to stand.

The recipient of two honorary doctorates, our colleague Clarence Blount is a man of quiet determination who has served in this body since 1971. Appreciation for his dedication and hard work in the service of the people of Maryland abounds. His name is found on a college building at his alma mater, Morgan State University, and on a playing field at Forest Park High School. Indeed the field, even more than the building, is symbolic of Clarence Blount's prodigious and continuing efforts to level the playing field, to provide both service and equal opportunity to all.

It is with great pleasure and in recognition of the persistent, yet gentlemanly way in which Clarence Blount has led us and in gratitude for the example he

has set in this chamber, in the classroom, and on the battlefields of Europe that we present him with this ***First Citizen Award.***

[pause for applause, let Senator Blount say a few words in response, then ask Senator Cade to stand]

Our next honoree is the Minority Leader, Senator Jack Cade, As one headline put it in 1988, 'Blunt Tactics,' is the most gentle way to characterize Senator Cade's method of keeping himself, his family, and his government on the straight and narrow. He is famous for his penetrating, pointed criticism. He does not suffer fools gladly, yet he has a thoughtful, tender nature that is forever emerging at moments least expected. No one is more knowledgeable about, or more devoted to good government than Senator Cade. He never fails to let people know where he stands,

even on matters of music. It is said that he once left a class when the the teacher took to playing recent jazz from the 60s and 70s, calling it "just a bunch of dissonant ..." ... I will leave you to fill in the rest. Let's just say that in the best tradition of Abraham Lincoln, Jack Cade is not affraid to speak plainly and honestly on any topic that concerns him.

It is indeed a special pleasure for me to present him with this *First Citizen Award*, not only as a tribute to his plain speaking and his incisive criticism, both of which are of inestimatable value to this body, but for the sensitive, yet aggressive manner in which he has managed to be both the voice of dissent, and a willing broker of censensus. Clearly he has done so in the interest of the community and in keeping with the final will of the majority.

[pause for applause, let Senator cade respond, then ask Senator Clark to stand]

We come now to the third of our honorees, former Senator and Senate President, James Clark, Jr.

Soft spoken, devoted to the study of history and to the preservation of the land, Senator Clark is best known for his efforts to control land use and to secure for posterity what remains of the great agricultural heritage of this State and Country. In his memoirs, the late Senator James reminds us that Senator Clarke was not one to give in easily to failed first attempts. Quietly and persistently Senator Clark spearheaded efforts to protect open spaces and farmland and, as he left the Senate in 1987, he could point with pride to the extent with which he had upheld the Jeffersonian ideal of protecting the virtues

of the rural world from wholesale destruction.

Senator Clark points with justifiable pride to his own open space, his farm in Howard County, and to his Clark ancestors who bought their piece of rural America from none other than Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

It is with a great sense of respect and appreciation for his gentle wit, his thoughtful and determined leadership, that we present this *First Citizen Award* to Senator Clark.

[Senator Clark responds; on to next order of business]