



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON · DIOCESE OF RICHMOND
Representing the Virginia Catholic Bishops and their Dioceses in Public Policy Matters

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Godspeed to A Good and Faithful Servant
Statement by Executive Director Jeff Caruso on the passing of Sen. Charles Colgan, defender of life, erstwhile Catholic Conference ally & friend

Today, I join with Bishop Michael Burbidge, Bishop Francis DiLorenzo and Bishop Emeritus Paul Loverde, as well as Virginia Catholic Conference staff and advocates, in expressing our deep sorrow at the passing of Senator Charles Colgan.

Among Virginia's long history of distinguished legislators, Senator Colgan's support for the mission of the Conference and the full spectrum of issues for which we advocate was exemplary, with a consistency that stood alone.

Senator Colgan, a Catholic and Diocese of Arlington parishioner, advocated for the poorest and most vulnerable at every stage -- supporting legislation to protect the unborn, spare the lives of death-row inmates, provide assistance for families in need, and help low-income children receive a quality education.

“The death of Senator Charles J. Colgan can and should prompt a moment of reflection on and gratitude for the long life of a man who demonstrated both the courage of his convictions and a resilient commitment to public service,” said Bishop Burbidge of the Diocese of Arlington. “His faith, convictions and service will undoubtedly leave a mark for decades to come. May the way

in which he brought faith to the public square inspire others to step forward in faithful service at all levels of government.”

“Over the course of his exemplary Senate career, Senator Colgan’s votes reflected his deep understanding of the nature of human dignity and its foundational significance to public service,” said Bishop DiLorenzo of the Diocese of Richmond. “His faith guided him in his daily life and in the public square.”

While Virginia has lost a humble and faithful servant, we thank God for Charles Colgan’s life and ask God to grant him eternal rest. May light perpetual shine upon him!

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The Virginia Catholic Conference represents the public policy interests of the Catholic Bishops of Virginia and their two dioceses.