

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 90

WHEREAS, Congressman Donald M. Payne was an effective and determined public servant who served more than twenty-three years in the United States House of Representatives, and was admired for his valuable contributions to the people of the State of New Jersey, the citizens of the United States, and the international community; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Payne was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1934, and remained close to his roots throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Payne graduated from Seton Hall University in 1957, and later pursued graduate studies at Springfield College in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Payne was dedicated to his community, teaching English and social studies and coaching football and track in the Newark public school system; serving as president of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of the United States, where he was the first African American to hold that position; and working as an executive at the Prudential Insurance Company; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Payne, prior to his election to the United States House of Representatives, served in county and local government, as the President of the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and as a member of the Newark City Council; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Congressman Payne became the State's first African American to be elected to the United States Congress, and, in 2010, was reelected to serve his twelfth term representing the 10th district, which includes the City of Newark and parts of Essex, Hudson, and Union counties; and

WHEREAS, during his years of service in the House of Representatives, Congressman Payne earned a reputation as a passionate legislator who held true to his principles, holding numerous leadership positions including serving as the Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; as a member of the House

Democratic Leadership Advisory Group; as a senior member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce; and as a senior member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, where he served as Ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Payne is recognized for his many accomplishments both domestic and abroad as a strong advocate for education reform; a champion of global health initiatives, including tireless efforts to ensure significant resources for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria prevention and treatment; and a leader in efforts to restore democracy and defend human rights from Northern Ireland to Sudan; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Payne will be remembered for his thoughtfulness, diligence, civility, pragmatism, and ability to reach across the aisle on issues impacting the freedom and human rights of people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Payne dedicated his life to service, not just through his elected positions, but through his work on charitable boards and foundations; and

WHEREAS, it is with deep sadness that we mourn the loss of Congressman Payne, and extend our sincere sympathy to his family and friends, and to his constituents who were well served by his leadership; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his achievements and service to New Jersey, it is fitting and appropriate to honor the memory and passing of Congressman Donald M. Payne;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of the State of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State

departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities during appropriate hours on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, in recognition and mourning of the passing of Congressman Donald M. Payne.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
12th day of March,
Two Thousand and Twelve, and
of the Independence of the
United States, the Two
Hundred and Thirty-Sixth.

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Charles B. McKenna

Chief Counsel to the Governor