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Press Releases Public Addresses Executive Orders Press Kit Reports

Home > Newsroom > Press Releases > 2012 > Governor Chris Christie Orders Flags Lowered to Half-Staff in Honor of Congressman Donald M. Payne

# Governor Chris Christie Orders Flags Lowered to Half-Staff in Honor of Congressman Donald M. Payne

Monday, March 12, 2012 Tags: [Executive Orders](#)

Trenton, NJ – Today, Governor Chris Christie signed the following Executive Order:

**Executive Order No. 90** – Ordering all State buildings to fly flags at half-staff on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, to honor the service and contributions of United States Congressman Donald M. Payne, who was born in Newark, graduated from Seton Hall University and became the state's first African-American elected to Congress in 1988, serving in that position for more than two decades. During his years of service, Congressman Payne earned a reputation as a passionate legislator and is recognized for his many accomplishments both domestic and abroad, as well as for his work through charitable boards and foundations. He will be remembered for holding true to his principles and for his ability to reach across the aisle on issues impacting the freedom and human rights of people throughout the world and especially in New Jersey.

[EO-90: Governor Chris Christie Orders Flags Lowered to Half-Staff in Honor of Congressman Donald M. Payne](#)

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## 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

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