

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Whitman Mourns Passing of Dr. Howard Woodson

Gov. Christie Whitman issued the following statement regarding the passing of Dr. S. Howard Woodson, Jr.:

"Today, our state mourns the loss of a true leader, Dr. S. Howard Woodson. Dr. Woodson dedicated his entire life to serving people, as a minister, a cabinet officer, a member of the New Jersey General Assembly, and as Speaker of that body. Dr. Woodson will always maintain a place in New Jersey history as the first African-American to have served as Speaker of the Assembly and as Acting Governor.

"Dr. Woodson was a person who knew how to get things done. He understood the importance of faith-based community services long before government did and expanded his church to provide programs for senior citizens, children and the poor. He organized programs to improve the quality of life for the residents in his Trenton neighborhood.

"During his eight terms in the State Legislature, Dr. Woodson was known as an advocate for the people of this state and for supporting laws to strengthen our communities. As Commissioner of the Department of Civil Service, he recommended the creation of the Division of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, making New Jersey the first state in the nation to have such an agency.

"On behalf of the citizens of this state, I offer my condolences to his family and our thanks for all that he gave us."

