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