



OBITUARIES

PASSINGS: Donald Payne, Kurt Lehovec

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Donald Payne

New Jersey's 1st black congressman

Rep. Donald Payne, 77, the first African American congressman elected to represent New Jersey and a former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, died Tuesday at a hospital in Livingston, N.J. He had colon cancer.

Payne represented New Jersey's heavily Democratic 10th District, including the city of Newark. He won his seat in Congress in 1988 and was easily reelected 11 more times.

Payne was a member of House committees on education and foreign affairs and a congressional delegate to the United Nations.

He also served as chairman of the House subcommittee on Africa and had traveled many times to the continent on foreign affairs matters. During an April 2009 visit to Somalia, mortar shells were fired toward Mogadishu airport as a plane carrying Payne took off safely from the Somali capital.

Born July 16, 1934, in Newark, Donald Milford Payne graduated from Seton Hall University in 1957. He was a teacher in N

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