

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 6, 2012 6:38 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: IRELAND'S FRIEND DON PAYNE DIES

Fyi - I didn't know he was such a friend to Ireland.  
Stella coming Thursday.

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**From:** Stella O'Leary [mailto:irldems@erols.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 03:22 PM  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients <undisclosed-recipients;>  
**Subject:** IRELAND'S FRIEND DON PAYNE DIES

## **DONALD M. PAYNE**

**Irish American Democrats** mourn the passing of Ireland's great friend, Congressman Donald M. Payne, the first African American Member of Congress from New Jersey. Congressman Payne was a great friend of Ireland. He was recognized as having the most pro-Irish voting record in the entire U.S. Congress. He introduced a measure to ban the use of plastic bullets by the British Army and a bill to support an inquiry into the deaths of Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson. Congressman Payne championed the cause of Irish deportees, urging that they be permitted to remain in the U.S.

A frequent visitor to Ireland, he accompanied former President Bill Clinton on his historic trip to Northern Ireland to lay the groundwork for a peace settlement. He also traveled to South Africa with his Irish friend Niall Mellon, to support the work of Irish volunteers building homes to replace shacks in the townships of South Africa.

He joined Irish nationalists in monitoring the Orange Order parades to document violations against the Catholic residents of Garavaghy Road. A strong supporter of the peace process, he personally met with leaders of all parties and with the U.S. Envoy to Northern Ireland, to encourage successful implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. Congressman Payne delivered the Frank Cahill Memorial Lecture in Belfast and was named the winner of the Pat Finucane Award by the Irish American Unity Conference, in recognition of his support for human rights.

Congressman Payne was an advocate in Congress for the International Fund for Ireland, believing it to be the best instrument to build the peace and prevent a return to violence in Northern Ireland.

**Stella O'Leary**  
**President**  
**Irish American Democrats**  
**(202) 362-9064**  
**[irldems@erols.com](mailto:irldems@erols.com) [www.irishamericandemocrats.org](http://www.irishamericandemocrats.org)**