

COMMITTEE TO ELECT GENERAL BAKER

State Representative • 9th District

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(over).



This abandoned building is located at the corner of Blaine St. and Second Ave. It is one of hundreds of abandoned buildings in my neighborhood. My name is Willa Mae Carr. I have lived in the 9th District for 27 years. I have watched our streets fill up with broken houses empty of people. Sometimes the street is deserted at night because my neighbors and I are afraid to go out of our houses. I have raised nine children in the 9th District. Some of them attended Palmer Elementary School. It was a good school years ago, but it became overcrowded and fell apart, just like the houses around here. Palmer Elementary is closed now. When my children grow up and leave school, they probably won't be able to find work. Chrysler World Headquarters is right down the street from my house, but in the last 20 years much of the industry has left this area, taking jobs with them . . .

Dear Friends;

I am concerned about my neighborhood. I want an end to the crime. I want good schools for my children and jobs for everyone. I want good medical care at a clinic near my home. My neighbors and I want the houses on our streets to be full of people who are free from hunger, sickness and fear.

During the past 21 years, the 9th District Representative to the Michigan House has been George H. Edwards. But my neighbors and I cannot call Mr. Edwards our representative. He does not speak for us. Just look at the record of Mr. Edwards and you will agree:

- Chairman of the powerful Corporations and Finance Committee. (His wife, Esther Gordy Edwards, is on the Board of Directors of the Bank of the Commonwealth.)
- Said nothing and did nothing when Highland Park Hospital deteriorated for many years and finally closed in 1975, even though the infant mortality rate in the 9th District is the highest of any area in the state.
- Said nothing and did nothing when businesses closed and jobs were eliminated at the Ford Tractor Plant, Sears warehouse and Ex-Cello.
- Absent for 50% of the votes in the Michigan House during 1975 which might have improved the standard of living in the 9th District.
- Eight out of thirteen bills introduced by Mr. Edwards in 1975-76 represent the interests of large banks, corporations and wealthy inheritors, (including a bill permitting electronic transfer of funds, which could tighten the control of large banks on the average working persons paycheck.)

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George Edwards does not and cannot represent working people in the 9th District or in the State of Michigan. By law, Mr. Edwards must live in the 9th District, and although he owns a house here, it is empty — he lives in the riverfront Detroit Towers. Because of his wealth and power, Mr. Edwards doesn't have to be afraid to walk on our streets at night, to send his children to our schools or that his job will "run away" from Detroit.

Mr. Edwards has been so removed from the 9th District that most of my neighbors and I have not even known that he was our representative all of these years. That's why many of us are beginning to support a new candidate for the Michigan House — a candidate who would truly represent our desire for long overdue change. That candidate is General Baker. His record speaks for itself.

General Baker was born in Detroit in 1941. He has been a working man all of his adult life. His foresight and dedication have made him a leader in the fight for equality, peace and jobs for all working people. Refusing military induction on September 10, 1965, General Baker became one of the first to participate in Detroit's anti-draft movement. Gen was also a leader in the struggle of black people for equality, being active in the United Negro Improvement Association and the UHURU Organization at Wayne State University. In 1969 and 1970, he was active in the fight of black students and parents for quality education, first at Northern and later at Highland Park High School. He then participated in the campaign to recall the Highland Park Board of Education for its refusal to respond to the community's demands. Gen also organized a camping and recreation program for youth in the Northend area. In May, 1968, he organized a shut-down of Dodge Main, setting the basis for the development of the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM). He was a full-time staff member of the Inner City Voice, and one of the founders of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. In 1970, when the Highland Park police shot and killed a 9 year old youth, the League protested this outrage and raised funds for the family. General Baker was also a founding member of the party of which he is now a candidate.

Gen has worked at Chrysler, Dodge Main, and is currently an assembly worker at Ford Rouge. He has lived in Highland Park since 1968. General Baker is fighting and will continue to fight for a job for every worker, for quality, integrated education, for more public housing and for free, universal medical care.

The campaign to elect General Baker is a bold step forward in a long fight to change our country from a system based on the privilege of a few people, where the majority toil for the profit of the few, into a new system where the majority produce for the well being of the majority.

It's time for a change! Join with us in this bold step forward. We plan to win in the 9th District, and have already begun to conduct an intensive voter registration drive and to build a network of hundreds of canvassers and campaign workers. Right now we need many thousands of dollars to purchase space and time on television, radio, in newspapers and on billboards to tell the people across this state that we have a candidate who fights for us — whose voice is our voice. You can march along beside us by supporting this campaign financially. General Baker has no rich relatives. He must rely on progressive people like you who believe there can be no democracy without real representation. Twenty years is enough! Let's elect General Baker in November and have a real representative in Lansing for a change.

Sincerely,



9th District Chairperson