General G. Baker, Jr.
September 6, 1941 - May 18, 2014

“We have seen the few become the many. So don’t be dismayed that there aren’t a lot of people here right now. They’re coming. We just need a few to stand up and show the way.”
— General Baker, Benton Harbor, Michigan, 2006

General Baker. How do we describe such a man? Communist. World Revolutionary. Trade Union leader. Loving husband, father, and friend. He breathed Detroit. He was Detroit. Roots struck deep in this grandest of cities, Gen was a leader in the fight for the emancipation of the working class in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Comrades pass on. It is part of the inevitable cycle of life. It’s what they stood for, the lessons their lives teach us, that live on. It is in these times, and with these kinds of people, that we reflect, we measure our own lives against the one who is gone, and ask ourselves, who are we really?

The world is changing so fast we hardly recognize it some days. Yet Gen rejoiced in this change. “When something new happens,” he told a group of young activists in 2010, “it gives us the opportunity to think about new things.” It meant real change was possible.

The chairperson and a founding member of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, Gen understood that without organization, our class has nothing. He understood — he knew first hand — that struggles break out, but without revolutionary leadership they become simply the plaything of the enemy. He understood that organization is impossible without unity. That unity of action is impossible without unity of understanding. He understood that as conditions change, we have to change, from the way we think about things, to the way we organize ourselves, to what we expect from the work we do.

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League of Revolutionaries for a New America WHAT WE STAND FOR

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The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, health care and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a cooperative society. For the first time an objective communist economic class is forming to become the foundation for a communist political movement. A new fascist state form, the naked rule of corporate power, is arising to oppose this motion.

Society must take over these corporations or these corporations will continue to take over society. The new class must have political power to achieve these goals. In the effort to achieve this political power the League supports all political organizations and sections of society that fight against the growing poverty, social and ecological destruction, fascism and war.

Nothing can be accomplished until the American people hold a vision of where they want to go and what they want to be. Creating and imbuing them with such vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization. Destruction of the ecology, the threat of nuclear war and the looming pandemics are calling the very existence of the human race into question. The battle is class struggle. The war is for the existence of humanity.

We in the League face the future with confidence. We call upon all revolutionaries to abandon sectarian differences, to unite around the practical demands of the new class and to secure that imperiled future.