



## *General Holiefield*

### **MICHIGAN**

General Holiefield was elected a vice president of the UAW on June 14, 2006 by the delegates to the union's 34th Constitutional Convention. He directs the Chrysler, Heavy Trucks and General Dynamics departments. A UAW member for 36 years, Holiefield served as executive administrative assistant to UAW President Ron Gettelfinger from June 2004 until his election as vice president. He is the first African-American to serve in the union's top staff position.

Prior to that, Holiefield served two years as an administrative assistant to Vice President Nate Gooden, who directed the UAW DaimlerChrysler Department. In the UAW's successful 2003 national negotiations with DaimlerChrysler, Holiefield coordinated the national negotiating committees and staff assignments and played a major role in ratifying the national agreement.

Holiefield was appointed to the staff of the UAW in 1995 by then-President Stephen P. Yokich and assigned to the union's Chrysler Department, then directed by Vice President Jack Laskowski. As a servicing representative, he worked closely with UAW members and local union leaders at Chrysler manufacturing and parts plants in Michigan and Indiana. In July 1997, Vice President Laskowski promoted Holiefield to the position of appeals board coordinator, with responsibility for handling arbitration cases for the UAW Chrysler Department.

In November 1999, Vice President Gooden promoted Holiefield to the position as an assistant director of the union's DaimlerChrysler Department, and promoted him to administrative assistant in April 2002. Holiefield has been a UAW member since 1973, when he went to work at Chrysler's Jefferson assembly plant in Detroit. In 1975, he transferred to the Chrysler axle plant on the lower east side of Detroit, where he quickly became active in UAW Local 961, working on various standing committees, including the Civil Rights, Community Action Program (CAP), Union Label, and Bylaws committees.

Recognizing his activism and leadership skills, UAW Local 961 members elected Holiefield as their chief steward in 1987. He was elected vice president of his local union in 1990, and became president two years later when his predecessor retired. In 1992 Holiefield was elected by Local 961 members as a delegate to the 30th Constitutional Convention. In 1993, Local 961 members elected him president and bargaining chairperson by acclamation.

A longtime political and community activist, Holiefield is a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, a Life member of the NAACP, as well as a board member of the NAACP's national Board of Directors, a member of the UAW Legal Services Board and a Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) member.