

Henry Helm

Human Resources/Business

Henry “Jolly” Helm, a Jackson, Mississippi native, is a 1964 graduate of Lincoln University. With a major in Sociology, he was initiated in Alpha Mu Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Later, while teaching in East St. Louis, IL and pursuing a master’s degree at DePaul University, he was recruited as a Job Corps counselor for the Lincoln, Nebraska campus.

In 1968, he blazed a trail for other African Americans when he accepted a managerial position with General Mills Corporation (GMC). This timeframe was the beginning of a new era for Blacks and for corporate opportunities as well as other emerging job markets. During his early years with GMC, he went on special assignment to find his office across the hall from Hubert Humphrey. Also during that assignment, he and his family lived at The Water Gate Apartments whose name is reminiscent of the waning Nixon years. Not surprisingly, Jolly was featured in *The White Collar Blacks*, a book highlighting the sparse presence of blacks in the corporate world. Attending several college fairs at LU, he recruited many students for GMC.

Working in various corporate capacities, he brought over 50 scholarships to LU, secured matching funds from his respective companies, and received many awards from the University for his role and contributions to the building of the new Memorial Hall. Henry worked for 30 years with General Foods Division. Henry received an Outstanding Employee Award, and the Black Achievers Award given by the Harlem YMCA... one of the higher employee awards offered. After 30 years’ service, he retired as VP for the Entenmanns’s Bakery Division of the company.

Henry and his wife Linda, live in Chappaqua, NY. They are active with the NY/NJ Alumni Chapter of the LUMA and LU Foundation Board. They have three children, Lisa, Kyle and Lori and three grandchildren.