{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Director of Member Services Angel Gomez introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }

People We See
in downtown Los Angeles.

No. 9 in a series.
SEPTEMBER 2008

Meet Rico Dawson.

AGE: "58."

BIRTHPLACE: "Ohio."

MARITAL STATUS: "Married."

FAMILY: "Five brothers and six sisters."

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "Camping in the woods with friends."

MOVED TO THE CITY: "1986."

EDUCATION: "I graduated from high school and have some college."

MILITARY: "I was drafted into the Army in 1968, and got out in 1970. I was stationed at Fort Sill and Fort Ord, and then I did a tour in Vietnam, in particular at Phu Bai and Tainym. I saw quite a bit of action, and I was armed with an M-16."

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "A home."

LAST JOB: "I worked for Intel in the accounting dept., back in 1988."

FAVORITE SPORT: "Football."

RELIGION: "Protestant."

FAVORITE FOOD: "Lamb."

FAVORITE MOVIE: *"Little Caesar."*

FAVORITE ACTOR: "Edward G. Robinson."

FAVORITE ACTRESS: "Greta Garbo."

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "*I Love Lucy*."

FAVORITE MUSIC: "All music, especially classical."

FAVORITE CANDY: "Hershey's bar."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "In Flag Park."

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY: "Hollywood Bowl."

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Try to do good, do right! Don't harm anyone."

LAST BOOK READ: "The Bible."

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE WAR IN IRAQ? "I hate war. I don't think it's right for young people to be dying. It's a senseless waste of life."

IF YOU WERE MAYOR, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS SITUATION? "First, I would recognize that there are several types of homeless people, and not lump all of us into one category. I do not use drugs or alcohol, yet the only place to spend the night is in the mission, where most of the homeless are drug addicts and alcoholics. The mission is demoralizing and an embarrassment to me; if I were mayor, I would provide more respectable housing options, and I would try to funnel more money to the cause."

The Club gave Rico a "Club Earth-Friendly Bag," filled with three pairs of socks, water, snacks, an L.A. City shirt, $20 and a $25 McDonald's gift card. He was very appreciative.

The interview took place Aug. 19 at "Flag Park" at the County Administration Building, one block from City Hall.

Who are the people you see every day?