

{ *Who are the people you see every day?* }

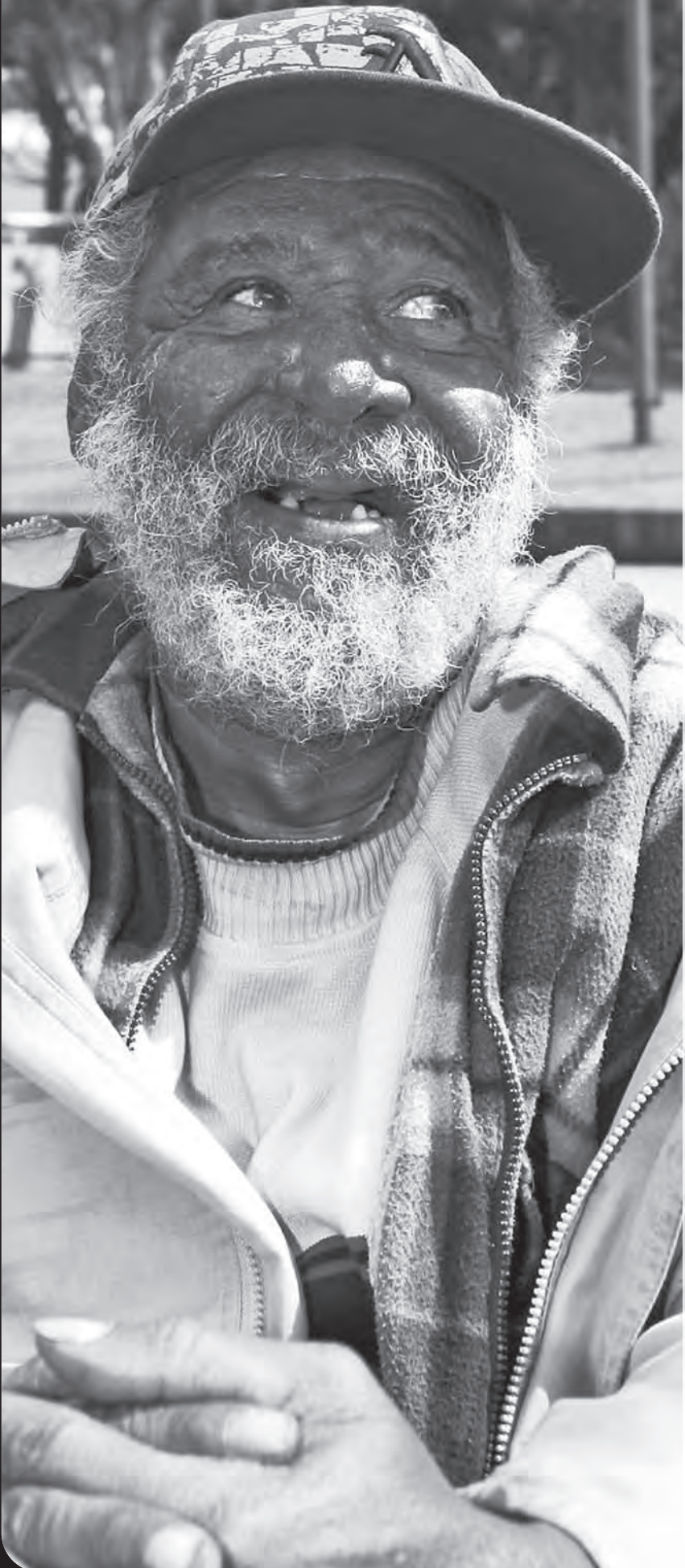
No. 19 in a series.

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.



Meet Larry Lawson.



AGE: "I'm 64 years old."
BIRTHPLACE: "New Orleans."
WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES? "1955."
MARITAL STATUS: "Single. I've been married twice, at the same time. I have two kids who are 19, and the other about 22."
FAMILY: "I have one brother and three sisters."
FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "Eating fried flour bread with butter, and dipped in syrup."
RELIGION: "Baptist, Catholic, Muslim and Pentecostal -- I tried them all. Back in the 1970s, my religion was crack cocaine, which is what sent me to the streets in the first place."
MILITARY: "No."
WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "Here in Flag Park."
EDUCATION: "I graduated from Dorsey High School."
TROPHIES: "I had tons of them when I was in high school."
WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD? "I was a waiter on Amtrak from Los Angeles to New Orleans."
IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "I would wish to be off the streets."
FAVORITE SPORTS: "Basketball."
FAVORITE FOOD: "I like baked beans, and I really like gumbo."
FAVORITE MOVIE: "*Dirty Harry*."
FAVORITE ACTOR: "Clint Eastwood."
FAVORITE TV SHOW: "I never really watch TV, but I used to like comedies like *Three's Company* and *The Cosby Show*."
FAVORITE MUSIC: "I like the blues, but sometimes it's hard to listen to since it's so sad, and it can be depressing."
FAVORITE CANDY: "Chocolate-covered cherries."
LAST BOOK READ: "A Sherlock Holmes book. I can't remember which one."
THOUGHTS ON THE WAR IN IRAQ: "We really got ourselves into a mess, and it will take a long time to get out of it. I don't think Obama will be able to do it in four years."
LAST THING HE HAD TO EAT: "Last night, I had beans and rice."
DO YOU DRINK? "As much as possible. It's sad to say, but alcohol got me off drugs."
FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY: "I like it here in Flag Park."
WHAT HE'D DO WITH A MILLION DOLLARS: "I'd move out of this city, probably up to Sacramento."
ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Don't get homeless."
WHAT THE MAYOR SHOULD DO FOR THE HOMELESS: "Build more shelters -- these people need more shelters. Try sleeping in a wet blanket sometime. All night you're shivering; you then get in a spot where you don't want to move because, as soon as you do, you get cold again. Trying to find food is tough, too."
ORGANIZATION THAT'S BEEN THE BIGGEST HELP: "The Union Mission, but I don't go there anymore because of the restrictions. There are just too many rules."
WHERE HE'LL BE IN FIVE YEARS: "Hopefully not in this park. Being on the streets is tough."

The Club gave Larry a McDonald's gift certificate, some cash, snacks and a Club tote bag.

This interview took place April 29 in Flag Park, near the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

Newsbriefs

LAPD PURPLE HEART MEDAL:

On May 6, the Los Angeles Police Commission unanimously approved the creation of the LAPD Purple Heart Medal, which will be awarded to the families of officers killed in the line of duty and to officers who sustain traumatic physical injury during an on-duty tactical situation.

"Today, the Commission made a strong statement about its appreciation for the sacrifices our officers and their families make, day in and day out," said Police Commissioner Alan Skobin. "This day, and the LAPD Purple Heart, belongs to all of those who have protected the City we care so much about."

Commissioner Skobin expressed his gratitude to the officers who brought the need for a formal recognition to his attention. "Knowing that it was the right thing to do, these officers did not give up in their quest to create the Purple Heart Medal. I am so appreciative they had the confidence in me to share their passion and commitment for creating this award. I agree, it is the right thing to do, and I applaud my fellow Commissioners and Chief Bratton for their support."

"I am very glad my fellow Commissioners and I had the opportunity to create this important medal for the LAPD officers," said Police Commission President Anthony Pacheco. "While it will be awarded under very traumatic circumstances, it is an important statement in the Department's commitment to the officers who bravely risk so much for the safety of the people of Los Angeles."

All Commissioners agreed that this new medal is an additional way to express appreciation for the sacrifices LAPD officers make, however, they also expressed their desire to maintain strict criteria for the granting of medal. To begin immediately, the Purple Heart Medal will be awarded to the families of officers killed in the line of duty and to those who sustain traumatic physical injury during an on-duty tactical situation.

The Purple Heart Medal will also be awarded retroactively to the families of officers killed in the line of duty, and to active officers who meet the Purple Heart criteria. Under these circumstances, families and officers meeting the criteria would have six months to submit a request to the Commendations Board through the Division of occurrence. It is estimated that an average of five officers per year will qualify for the Purple Heart Medal.

NEW LAX WARNING SYSTEM:

Technology that alerts pilots to potential runway safety hazards is now operating at Los Angeles International Airport, thanks to a partnership between the Federal Aviation Administration and the City.

The system, called Runway Status Lights, uses a series of red lights embedded in the pavement to warn pilots if it's unsafe to enter or cross a runway, or to take off. Los Angeles World Airports paid for the \$7 million system; the FAA installed the system and will maintain it.

"Runway Status Lights are a critical safety enhancement for LAX," said Wes Timmons, the FAA's director of runway safety. "This system has proved that it is highly effective in preventing potentially dangerous runway incidents from occurring."

LAX is the third U.S. airport to get Runway Status Lights, following several years of successful tests at Dallas-Fort Worth and San Diego. It's the first airport to have the lights installed on multiple runways.

"With the installation of Runway Status Lights, LAX has established itself ahead of the curve when it comes to passenger safety," said Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "Through partnership with the FAA, Los Angeles will continue to ensure the utmost safety on the LAX airfield."

Runway Status Lights are connected to LAX's ground radar system. The lights turn red if the ground radar detects a potential conflict between two aircraft or an aircraft and a vehicle. They're installed on eight LAX taxiways and one runway.

Clearance to cross or enter a runway must be given by air traffic control. When the lights go off, the pilot or vehicle driver must verify the clearance before proceeding.

Runway Status Lights are the latest safety enhancement at LAX. The FAA also recently installed the most technologically advanced ground radar system, known as Airport Surface Detection Equipment-X, or ASDE-X, in the air traffic control tower. ASDE-X collects data from more sources than LAX's previous ground radar system, and provides air traffic controllers with color map displays showing the location of all aircraft and vehicles on the runways and taxiways.



{ 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. }