

Mona from the Corner: Set Aside Political Differences, Converge in Harmony for Truth and Justice

By [Philip A Farruggio](#)

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She's a little lady, 70 something, with this cute, addictive smile. Drives an old bomb of a car, replete with Peace and End the Occupation type stickers on it. She's a nurse, still works, doing home care for very ill folks with that special Mona type TLC.

I first met her at a progressive discussion event my friends and I organized back in '03.

Many of us were disgusted with the government's hog wash version of 9/11 and the insuring illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq. We wanted to rally our community (those few who took the time to really care about such things in '03) to speak out. Tiny, quiet Mona joined our monthly group of concerned citizens, acknowledging her 'lack of depth' on what was happening. Yet, she quickly added, that her *inner self* told her what was *right* and what was *wrong*. She became a regular member of our group.

When Michael Moore's new film, *Fahrenheit 911*, was opening in Daytona, rumors spread that Bush supporters in this area were going to hold a protest outside the theater. I asked if anyone would join me in a counter demonstration. Mona raised her hand. We met outside the theater in the parking lot. She had told me that her daughter would accompany her, as this was the *first time* in both their lives that either of them had demonstrated. Mona was scared! What if? What if the Bush supporters got physical? What if a fight broke out? Here was this little lady going against what and who? At the parking lot, at our allotted time to meet, Mona walked slowly towards me. Where was her daughter? "She stayed in the car..... she's frightened. So am I, but I gave my word. Let's do it!" We did, and the *Bush lovers* protest never occurred (when does it?). Mona proudly held her sign, smiled a lot, and made a greater impression on the moviegoers than I ever could.

There are a bunch of folks who have been standing on the same corner in Port Orange, my town, each and every Tuesday. Some, like Mona, have been there from the beginning, which is now almost 3 and 1/2 years. She stands there, with her *Honk for Peace* sign, or whatever else she may decide to hold, and waves at the cars. Always that smile, that... well, that *Mona Lisa* half smile her namesake wore. She raises her hand as if to say to all who pass "Hey, here I am, because I *care!*". The others, those who come and stand with Mona, they *care* too. Enough to put aside political differences (not all are Democratic Party loyalists) and converge in harmony for truth and justice. And Mona? Well, she's the *glue*, the non judgmental glue, that keeps it all together.

This writer has strayed from that corner recently, with my differences with the mainstream Democrats overpowering and frustrating my efforts. Then, while recently driving in our local

shopping center, I spot Mona, walking to her car. "When are you coming back? We miss you on the corner." If only there were more Monas in this community. Because of her I *will* be back!

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Philip A Farruggio is a contributing editor for *The Greenville Post*. He is also frequently posted on *Global Research*, *Nation of Change*, *World News Trust* and *Off Guardian* sites. He is the son and grandson of Brooklyn NYC longshoremen and a graduate of Brooklyn College, class of 1974. Since the 2000 election debacle Philip has written over 300 columns on the *Military Industrial Empire* and other facets of life in an upside down America. He is also host of the 'It's the Empire... Stupid' radio show, co produced by Chuck Gregory. Philip can be reached at paf1222@bellsouth.net.

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