



It is a great honor for me to be among all of you today to say a few words about my dear friend of almost 40 years Mona Gandara McGrath, on this solemn yet so appropriate occasion. Long before we both worked for the city of Santa Monica we were neighbors and friends and she exhibited the same remarkable qualities of grace and humanity as a child, and as an adolescent, as she did as an adult special human being.

Mona was a true daughter of Santa Monica having been born here and she loved being a contributing member of this community. When it came to the command of honoring your parents Mona was second to none. It was my privilege to work with Mona's father for the city in what was then called the Sewer Department and he never failed to proclaim his love and respect for her and her fine qualities as a dutiful and devoted daughter.

As a friend Mona was always supportive whether at work or meeting in the market or on the street. That amazing smile and warmth never failed to lift the spirits.

It was a unique experience to serve on the MEA board of directors with Mona where no matter how intense the pressure she used her great powers of persuasion to bring sanity and clarity to every situation no matter how great the adversity. Mona's sweet nature was such that she abhorred extremism and searched for common ground and compromise.

So great was Mona's moral authority that when going to a council meeting with her several Santa Monica Mayors would walk off the dais to give her a hug and a kiss. Many times I felt

like John Kennedy when he expressed the pleasure of having escorted Jacqueline Kennedy to Paris. Such was the way I felt in escorting Mona to some of our city council meetings.

After my service on the MEA board Mona never failed to keep in touch and much to my surprise one night asked me out to dinner with the MEA board and presented me with a plaque for my past services to the organization.

Never did I derive more pleasure than when I would see Mona and her husband Joe walk up the Promenade hand and hand going to their favorite eating spot at "Johnny Rockets". It was plain to see they were in love! They never failed to say hello and comment on how well the Promenade looked. This was always a morale booster for our team.

Mona showed her friendship time after time and spoke at the anniversary of my 30th year with the city.

Mona left a great legacy. She taught us so many positive lessons of life, and she was an example of how to handle misfortune with the same dignity, grace and love as in the way she lived.

It is fitting and proper for all of us here today to honor the memory of Mona as someone whose radiance will always be with us. May her great soul rest in peace, as she takes her place among the angels.

Eddie Greenberg – Tuesday, May 18th, 2010

