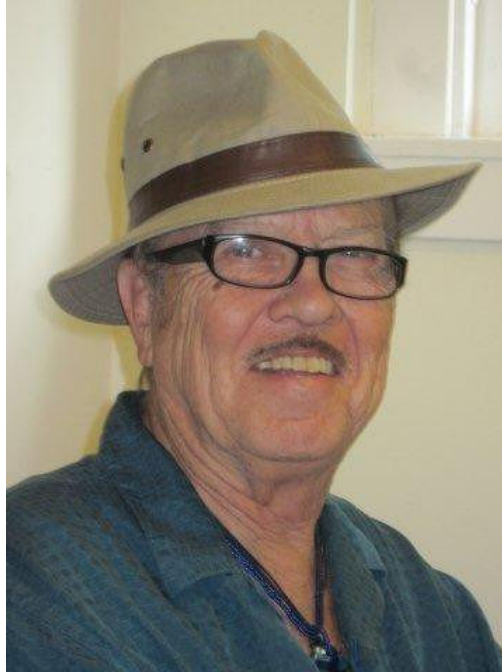


**2012  
NATIONAL SENIOR POET LAUREATE AWARD**

**JOHN W. CRAWFORD  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas**



**THE ONE LESS TRAVELED BY**

I met him in a high school class  
one cold November day,  
when we were told to turn the page  
and read along the way.

The poem began, "*Whose woods these are*"  
in simple words and phrase,  
but by the end of "*miles to go*"  
I learned a man to praise.

His name was Frost and new to me  
but not for very long,  
for "*Mending Wall*" and "*Birches*" too  
became my daily song.

His short "*Design*:" and strong "*Out, Out ...*"  
spoke to my inner soul;  
and reading slow "*Reluctance*" then  
helped make me pure and whole.

So when I come to many roads  
and have to choose but one,  
the grassy path that needs more wear  
I know I cannot shun.

For Frost gives word that ages hence  
I may look back and sigh;  
for it has made a difference --  
the one less traveled by.

Dr. John W. Crawford, 76, is professor emeritus of language and literature, Henderson State University (Arkansas). His teaching specialty was Shakespeare and the Renaissance. He has three literary books on Shakespeare's style and characters, and three poetry volumes from Mellen Press and PublishToday. His interests include music (as pianist, organist, soloist) and acting. He is co-founder and actor/director of Arkadelphia Little Theatre. His many honors include two Sybil Nash Abrams Prizes (Arkansas), Grand Prize of ISP in 2007 (\$20,000 and a book publication), and several state-level Senior Poet Laureate awards.

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