

A VILLANELLE
IN PRAISE OF EARL S. RICHARDSON'S
Remarkable Journey

For this strong man the journey does not end
The path, like Paul's, found him an advocate.
He saw a challenge there, where the road bends.

Equity and parity in funding found a friend
In speaking truth to power, stern, articulate.
For this wise man the journey does not end.

Like Odysseus, breasting Aegean seas, or Douglass, contending
with the Chesapeake's winds.
His vision was to build and renovate.
He loved the victories, there where the road bends.

A greater joy, distinguished graduates, the school's life blood to
send
Out, in twenty-five years seems much too short a date.
For this just man the journey does not end.

A tireless leader whom even foes commend,
New programs, structures, once done, more to anticipate
He raised a monument there, where the road bends.

Firm on the threshing ground, where truth and honor blend
A happy warrior clad in helmet, armor, and breastplate
For this brave man, the journey does not end.
He seizes a new mission there, where the road bends.

Ruthe T. Sheffey, Ph.D.
Professor of English
Presented at the Faculty Institute
Morgan State University