We live in a world of icons,
they identify paths we need.
Some are simply tools to use,
while others are warnings to head.

A three cornered flag, an icon,
earned while fighting a war.
Brings back to me a memory,
of the ones who are here no more.

Flag draped bodies, a twisted deck,
and knowing what must be,
Then one by one the bodies,
are committed to the sea.
These icons of battles past,
linger through time without end.
Reminders of lessons learned,
remembering the loss of a friend.

Now with our liberty threatened,
and the prospect of war close at hand.
The icon reminds us that some may die,
defending our great land.
September 18, 2003

Robert Fischer
101 Saddle Rd.
Portage WI 53901-9772

Dear Robert,

I am delighted to inform you that your poem "kusa" has been awarded our prestigious Editor's Choice Award because it displays a unique perspective and original creativity — judged to be the qualities most found in exceptional poetry. Congratulations on your achievement.

Your poem is also featured in Eternal Poems*, which, as expected, is now sold out. We have, however, reserved a limited number of copies that are now available only to poets included in this deluxe hardcover edition. Because you are one of these poets, and if you haven't already ordered a copy, or wish to obtain additional copies, this is your last opportunity to do so.

Oh, and one final note. Many people have asked if we can make available a commemorative plaque to present your poetry in a more formal fashion. We are glad to be able to do this. Your poem can be beautifully printed on superior-quality metal with your choice of borders, then mounted on a walnut finish plaque. The 10 by 13 inch plaques are truly impressive ways to exhibit your work. They also make wonderful gifts. Please see the enclosed material for further information. Again, congratulations on your achievement.

*Using this, you may offer

Editor's Choice Award
Presented to
Robert Fischer
September 2003
For Outstanding Achievement in Poetry
Presented by
poetry.com and the International Library of Poetry

Howard Ely
Managing Editor