



Jerry Jean Reineke was born in rural Wheeler County on January 17, 1938 to Roy Norvin Reineke and Eunice G. Skelton-Webb Reineke. He joined three older brothers, Jack, Roy (Jay), and Dick and a sister, Maralee. The family resided on a ranch on the banks of the Cedar River, and Jerry had many stories to tell about the “home place.” He had fond memories of growing up, including farm work with teams of horses and his pony, Pete Coley. He attended a rural country school in Wheeler County, riding Pete Coley to school uphill both ways, of course. His family left the home place shortly after his mother, Eunice, passed away in 1948 when Jerry was 10.

Jerry attended high school in Burwell and he and best friend, Dann Wagner, the notorious “wild” boys, would tell stories of their escapades and adventures for hours. Most of their stories would leave you shaking your head. Following graduation, Jerry attended Kearney State college for a short time and then enlisted in the United States Army on January 30, 1957.

He was stationed in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina for basic training and then shipped out to Seoul, South Korea. During his service in Korea, he received several letters and certificates of commendation for his service as a member of the Demonstration Team, 317<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion and rank as PVT E-1, Specialist Four. He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1960.

On January 8, 1961, Jerry married Judith DiAnne Mohler from Fort Dodge, Iowa. To this union, a daughter, Misty Sue, was born.

Jerry worked with his brother, Jay, running a clothing store on the west side of the square in Burwell for several years prior to purchasing the Blueberry Hill Filling Station in the mid-1960’s. In the 1970’s, the couple purchased land and built Blueberry Hill Truck Stop and Café, during which time Jerry served as President of the Nebraska Petroleum Association.

His love of horses followed him through his life. The family raised registered Paint horses and Jerry and his daughter, Misty, travelled across the Midwest showing horses. He served as the Nebraska Paint Horse Association Youth Advisor, as well as a board member of the NPHA, and as a member of the board of directors for the Burwell Rodeo.

Following the untimely death of his wife, Judy, in 1997, Jerry began Jerry’s Trucking, and hauled livestock. His granddaughters, Margo and Kate, remember countless hours spent in the sleeper of grandpa’s truck, playing with his CB radio and listening to music. After retiring from the trucking industry, Jerry began his career working in the National Parks. He worked in Yellowstone National Park, Jackson Hole Wyoming and the South Dakota State Recreation Areas. Not only did he make some lifelong friends while working in the Parks, Jerry spent weeks each summer exploring the Parks with his daughter, Misty, and granddaughters.

In 2014, Jerry moved to Minden, NE. to be closer to his daughter and began dialysis treatment. He made many good friends at the dialysis center and was a favorite with the nursing staff.

Jerry's greatest achievement was the family that he raised. His favorite times were when the whole family was together, sitting on the couch or outside talking. He loved the hours spent with his daughter, Misty, and her husband, John, his grandchildren, Margo, Kate, and Joe, and his great-granddaughter, Harper. His jolly soul and knack for telling a good (albeit long) story, will be remembered by all.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Roy Norvin Reineke and Eunice Skelton-Webb Reineke, his wife Judith, sister Maralee Reineke Udell, his brothers, Jack, Roy (Jay) and Dick Reineke. He is survived by his daughter, Misty Eckhardt and husband John of Minden, NE., granddaughter Margaret DeLashmutt and great-granddaughter Harper Ward of Franklin, TN., and granddaughter Kaitlyn Dobesh and husband Joe of Wahoo, NE. Jerry is also survived by nieces Risa Udell, Amy Owen and family, Marcy Udell and family, and nephew Bill Udell and family, along with many other nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

A graveside memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Kent Cemetery in Loup County. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Central Nebraska Humane Society in Grand Island, Nebraska to assist in caring for the shelter animals, a cause near and dear to Jerry's heart.