



On November 5, 1935, Maralee Ann Udell was born to Roy Norvin Reineke and Eunice G. Skelton-Webb Reineke. She joined three older brothers Jack, Roy (Jay), and Dick. Later, her sweet, younger brother Jerry would join the family. The Reineke family resided on a ranch along the Cedar River where Maralee spent her days galloping her pony through the countryside. She attended a rural school where she became an avid reader. Around 1948, the Reineke's moved to Burwell. Eunice passed away shortly after the move. Maralee was just fourteen when she lost her mom.

Maralee attended Burwell Jr. Sr. High School and proudly graduated with the Longhorn class of 1953. She attended UNL, the University of Colorado in Boulder and Kearney State Teachers College obtaining a two-year teaching degree in 1957. She began teaching at Burwell Elementary School. On June 7, 1959, Keith and Maralee were united in marriage. They moved to Dorchester, Nebraska where Maralee taught kindergarten and Keith attended Milford Community College. They returned to Burwell in 1961. Keith worked with his father and brother at Udell and Sons Feed and Supply. Maralee taught second grade at Burwell Elementary School. In 1963, they started a family. They were the proud parents of their three daughters Risa, Amy and Marcy and their son Bill.

Maralee served as the Burwell Housing Authority Director from 1987-2007. During her twenty years, Maralee served on the Nebraska National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organization (NAHRO) Board of Directors and was chairman of Professional Development for over 10 years. In 2002 she was recognized for her service to Nebraska NAHRO and was presented with the Orville Stanton Award. During her years, the Burwell Housing Authority received over a million dollars for rehabilitation and replacement of equipment. Additionally, in 1995, it received \$480,000 for the construction of six two-bedroom family houses and in 2000 the PHA received over \$600,000 to construct a nine unit Tax Credit Project. When asked about the housing projects our mother commented, "I have always believed that housing is not just about the building, it's also about the people. We must continue to look to the future."

In addition to serving as Executive Director of the Burwell Housing Authority/Parkview Plaza, our mother was active in PEO, Community Fund Board of Directors, Community Memorial Health Center Board, Burwell Jr. Sr. High School Board, Rotary, and a 4-H leader for 20 years taking many song groups to the Nebraska State Fair.

Our mother had grit. She never complained even though each day was a struggle. She was and will always be a hero, our hero. She was forward thinking whether it was in her dreams of housing for the people of Burwell, or her dreams for us, her children. Throughout our lives, she was the one to make certain that we had what we needed and did what we needed to do! She was tenacious. She was determined. She was resilient. She had grit and she infused her grit in us. Mom, you've battled for miles and miles. Rest in peace, dear mother. Rest in peace.

Maralee was preceded in death by her parents Roy Norvin Reineke and Eunice Skelton-Webb Reineke, her husband Keith, her brothers Jack, Roy (Jay), and Dick Reineke. She is survived by her daughter Risa Udell of Lincoln, David Schumann of Lincoln and Kayla and Casey Campbell of Lincoln. She is survived by her daughter Amy and Dr. David Owen of Kearney and their children Dr. Benjamin Owen and his wife Dr. Amanda Woodward Owen and son Lucas Owen of Sacramento California, Rachael Owen of Iowa City, Iowa, and Daniel Owen of Omaha, Nebraska. She is survived by Marcy Udell of Barstow California and Marcy's daughter Cassandra and her children Uyedon, Jamel and Levi of Barstow, California. She is survived by William and Tina (Ksasick) Udell of Lincoln NE and their children Emily, Lauren, and Max Udell of Lincoln, Nebraska. Maralee is also survived by her loving brother Jerry Reineke and her niece Misty Eckhardt and John Eckhardt. Maralee is survived by nieces, nephews, relatives and many dear friends.

A memorial service will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 10, 2018 at the First Congregational Church in Burwell, Nebraska. Inurnment will be in Cottonwood Cemetery in Burwell. Pastor Alan Petersen will officiate. A memorial visitation will be Friday from 5 – 7 p.m. at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Burwell Veterans Park or the Burwell Library.