

# Charles Anton Ruzicka

May 7, 1922 to April 30, 2008

*Walla Walla resident Charles A. Ruzicka, 85, of 135 Guy Fine Road, died April 30, 2008 at his home.*

*Viewing and visitation will be Tuesday, May 6, at Herring Groseclose Funeral Home from 1:00PM until 6:00PM. The rosary service will be at 7:00PM at St. Francis Catholic Church. The funeral service will be Wednesday, May 7, at 10:00AM at St. Francis.*



*Charles was born May 7, 1922 in Viking, Alberta, Canada to Louis and Helen Merta Ruzicka. The family moved to Woodburn, Oregon and then to Walla Walla. After his schooling, he worked on several farms. In 1942, he was drafted into the US Army and spent 18 months at Fort Knox. He served in a tank battalion under General Patton. He was wounded three times and received three Purple Hearts. He was discharged on Thanksgiving Day, 1945. For many years, he attended his 6th Armored Division reunions. When Charles came home from the service, he joined his father on the family farm and married Mary Vinti on November 14, 1948. They bought their farm on Sudbury Road in 1958. Charles participated in church activities, including the Knights of Columbus Michael Flohr Council No. 766 and was Faithful Navigator of the Father Brouillet Fourth Degree Assembly. He was a 21-year volunteer commissioner and firefighter for District 8. He was president of the Washington State Sugar Beet Growers Association and the Walla Walla County Cattlemen's Association, and was a member of the Walla Walla Grain Growers and Walla Walla County Farm Bureau. He was a Providence Associate since 1992. He enjoyed watching baseball and football, playing many games of pinochle, throwing darts and reading the newspaper. He especially enjoyed time with his family and working in his garden, which provided many bouquets for the church altar. He is survived by his wife at their home and: one daughter, Irene Rapp (and Dennis) of Spokane, WA, two sons, Gerald Ruzicka and Marvin Ruzicka (and Cheri) of Walla Walla, seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, a sister, Agnes Mason, a brother, Louis Ruzicka. He was preceded in death by: a son, Edward Ruzicka, in 2005, a sister, Louise Theriault, two brothers, Vincent and John. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Francis Catholic Church Building Fund, 722 W. Alder St., Walla Walla.*