Charles E. Lanik of Winona died peacefully Sunday morning, Dec. 4, 2011, with the gentle care of St. Anne Extended Healthcare and the company of his children after a long struggle with Parkinson’s disease.

He was born April 13, 92 years ago, the fourth child of Frank and Elizabeth (Kahoun) Lanik. On March 1, 1941, he was united in marriage with Benice Pittelko; she preceded him in death Dec. 24, 2003.

During his lifetime, he experienced childhood in the vital Bohemian community in Winona and the tragedy of the Great Depression, when the family had to leave the city and move to the farm they owned on Homer Ridge. During the Second World War, his wartime job was working on that farm. He married the love of his life, enjoyed his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and traveled extensively in his retirement years.

He was a graduate of Cotter High School. In his profession as a stationary power engineer, he worked at St. Teresa’s College, Rochester Dairy, Swifts, Watkins and Winona State University. He diligently kept up with his profession and was a proud union man.

He was a woodworker who built his own house, constructed display cases for his children and grandchildren and built doll cradles for his great-grandchildren. As an active member of St. John Nepomucene’s parish, he worked on building an addition to the school and ushered into his 90s. His large garden supplied his extended family and neighbors with strawberries, raspberries and butternut squash. In the last years of his life, though he never stopped mourning the loss of his wife, Bernice, who was the love of his life, he still found joy in time spent with his children, grandchildren and especially his great-grandchildren.

Charles is survived by his four children, Janice Pereda, George (Joan Slous) Lanik, Kenneth (Joanne) Lanik and Donald (Jayne) Lanik; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; as well as other relatives and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, 2011, at St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church. The Rev. Thomas J. Hargesheimer will officiate. Charles will be laid to rest in St. Mary’s Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 4 until 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011, at the Watkowski-Mulyck Funeral Home, where a Christian Wake Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. Visitation will also be held at St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church, Friday, Dec. 9, 2011, from 10 until 10:45 a.m. Pallbearers will be Charles’ grandchildren. Memorials may be directed to the Winona Public Library.

His children feel privileged to have spent the last day of his life on this earth with him and to have seen the peace on his face when he finally joined Bernice, the love of his life.

Online condolences or memories may be left for Charles’ family at www.watkowski-mulyck.com. Entrusted to our care — Watkowski-Mulyck Funeral Home.