

# **Gone West**

**Special Memorial Article by Joe Mahr**

On November 20th, 2011 Our long time Greater Midwest Rotorcraft Club member and friend, Frank Kehoe was killed in a fixed wing "stall-spin" crash of his recently purchased, Savannah LSA,

Those of you who knew Frank will remember him as a strong man, humble and quiet for someone who had achieved so much in his life. Frank spent many years building a thriving business Called Fulton Construction. He designed and built not only large communication towers and radio antennas but cellphone towers and relay stations that his company installed all over the Midwest and beyond. He provided at times employment for over 50 people. A meticulous craftsman in all he did Frank expected the same of his workers, and rewarded their efforts as well. The respect and admiration they gave him was manifested by the attendance of over 100 people at Pilot Pete's restaurant on Monday night December 12 at Schaumburg Airport for a memorial get together to celebrate his life. I and the other members of our club could sense that the people there were glad to have known Frank for the kind of guy he was.

Frank's pursuit of perfection in his business life transferred to his hobby, gyrocopters. Frank was always looking to innovate and improve upon existing designs. He was the first member of the club to design, build and fly a tall tail gyro. This innovation resulted in a very stable configuration that many club members claim was the best flying gyro they ever flew. Frank sold me this Gyro so I wouldn't PIO and kill myself when I was learning to fly. (He only told me this years later.)

Frank didn't brag or boast about his business and flying skills nor the number of aircraft he had, and did not belittle those who had less. And while he did not suffer fools lightly he did acknowledge his occasional errors, such as the broken weld gyro axle incident of years ago and a couple of off field un-planned landings in cornfields and mud puddles but what test pilot has not. As you can see Frank was a special guy and one of the few I knew who when a bereaved friend or relative said upon their death that the pilot died doing what they loved, Flying. I am sure Frank would have agreed. He has gone west and I hope one day we all can fly with him again with our other pilot friends.

JPM