

# Paul West of Brockton killed in New Hampshire motorcycle crash

By Maria Papadopoulos

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BROCKTON - Paul West had been to the Mount Washington Auto Road in New Hampshire before, but his daughter says he went there on Saturday with one goal: to ride his motorcycle to the top.

But his exhilarating ride quickly turned tragic when West, 65, a well-known businessman, was killed during his road trip.

West went over an embankment and crashed into a tree at about 11:50 a.m Saturday, about two miles up the mountain from Route 16 in New Hampshire, authorities said.

New Hampshire State Police Sgt. Todd Landry says speed and brake failure are being considered in the investigation as to the cause.

In Brockton, his daughter cried Sunday afternoon as she remembered her father, who owned and operated Paul E. West Crane Service from his Intervale Street home.

“He was a great guy. He’s been a great dad,” Valarie Tom, 32, of Avon, said, tears streaming down her face, as she held a photograph showing West with his left arm around her.

As she grew up, West, a Holbrook native and a divorced father of one, would often repeat the same encouraging words to her, she said.

“His motto was, ‘Wests are tough.’ That was his saying. That was his saying that we always told each other,” she said, crying.

That toughness grew from West working long hours, formerly as a truck driver, and then for more than two decades in the family tree business, founded three generations ago. West had operated a crane for more than four decades.

“He was definitely old school. His word was his bond, his honor. He was just very thoughtful, very kind,” his daughter said.

His love for his work extended into helping the community, family members said. Over the years, West donated his crane services to help “a lot of people in the city,” said his nephew, John West Jr., a Holbrook firefighter.

“He was a very simple man, with simple rules,” said West, 51, of Holbrook. “He was a hardworking man. This is what he loved and he loved the motorcycle. That was his other thing.”

A lifelong motorcyclist, West enjoyed riding his motorcycle to Laconia, N.H. when he wasn't working, his nephew said.

“He wanted to work until the day he died, and that's exactly what he did,” his nephew said somberly. “He didn't want to retire.”

Funeral arrangements were incomplete on Sunday.

The eight-mile road to the top of the Northeast's highest peak in New Hampshire opened in 1861. It's open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., weather permitting.

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