

# Family of Beaumont man crushed by crane reaches settlement

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Landon Russell, 20, died last month while working as a contractor at the Port of Beaumont.

Three years after a Beaumont man was crushed to death by a crane at the Port of Beaumont, his family on Monday reached a final settlement with the last of the four companies they sued.

Landon Russell, a 20-year-old West Brook High School graduate, was loading crude oil from rail cars onto barges on June 26, 2015 at a site on the Orange County side of the Neches River when he was killed.

His parents, Tara Latil and George Russell, alleged in a wrongful death suit filed in July 2015 that the contractors leasing the terminal negligently built an "inherently dangerous crane" from a modified boom truck crane.

The suit, filed by Beaumont-based Bernsen Law Firm, claimed that the pedestal holding the crane in place was too low, allowing the crane to fatally crush Russell, a contract worker for Jefferson Energy Companies, between the boom and a rail at the top of the 50-foot tall structure.

Russell's parents reached a settlement agreement on Monday with Lanier & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc., just before a civil trial was scheduled to begin, said Cade Bernsen, the family's attorney. The details of the settlement are confidential.

"We held them accountable and got justice for him (Russell)," Bernsen said. "Hopefully this gives them an opportunity to have closure and not have to relive it."

The family previously settled with three other defendants, Jefferson Refinery LLC, Bo-Mac Contractors, Ltd. and Custom Truck & Equipment, LLC, according to Bernsen.

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