



# San Diego father talks to Team 10 about daughter's death tied to faulty airbag

Jewel Brangman was killed in September

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SAN DIEGO - Alexander Brangman and his daughter, Jewel, were best friends.

She was a college graduate, a model and gymnast. She taught gymnastics in San Diego. Her father moved from New York to be closer to her. He read Team 10 the Father's Day card he received last year.

“After 26 years, I finally understand I will always be your little girl,” Jewel wrote to her father. “Big or small, old or young. You forever, my everything.... I love you forever. Your little girl.”

It's the last Father's Day card he will ever receive from his only daughter. On Sept. 7, 2014, she rear-ended a van in her rental car

on a freeway in Los Angeles. Four vehicles were involved. Everyone walked away from the crash, except the 26-year-old.



“My life changed. It was horrific,” Alexander Brangman said.

“It makes me feel like there’s a high level of incompetence because there is a faulty product out there that is putting many, many people in jeopardy,” the father said, when asked how he felt knowing several deaths have been tied to the airbags.

The Honda that Jewel Brangman was driving was equipped with a faulty airbag. The car was put under recall in 2009.

“Honda and Takata have come out and confirmed and acknowledged that it was their airbag that caused Jewel’s death,” said Adam Shea, the Brangman family’s attorney.

According to the lawsuit, shrapnel pierced Jewel’s neck. Shea said that was the only injury she suffered.

Jewel Brangman rented the car from Sunset Car Rental in Otay Mesa. Honda sent several notices to the car’s owner regarding the recall. Shea said the recall process is flawed.

“Absolutely it should be the manufacturer’s responsibility in the first instance to make sure they don’t put a defective car out. Once they realize it’s defective, they’ve got to do a much better job at educating people,” Shea said.

Alexander Brangman said no parent should ever feel the pain he’s gone through.

“I just want the world to know how special Jewel was and how much she was loved, and how much I loved her,” Alexander Brangman.

**Honda has said** it “is committed to addressing the needs and concerns” of customers affected by the issue.

Team 10 has tried repeatedly to get in touch with someone from Sunset Car Rental, but has been unsuccessful.

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