ALUMINUM GANTRY CRANE
Improves Site-to-Site Portability and Overall Efficiency

The Challenge
Roth Cemetery Services is a Pennsylvania-based company that provides professional headstone repair, restoration, cleaning, and setting services. Jay and Wilson Roth have spent many years repairing and restoring headstones, some dating back as far as the 18th-century. They take great pride in their work, and it shows.

Overtime, headstones start to slant, or the foundation may fail, and weather begins to degrade the integrity of the stone. Many headstones fall over because they were constructed using pins that attach the top part of the headstone to the base, which corrode and rust over time. In cases like these, Roth Cemetery Services can reconstruct the headstone and stabilize the monument. This process requires replacing old pins and resetting the headstone with a setting compound. In some cases, the sheer weight of the stone holds the monument together, however also makes the monument difficult to lift and move.

Most headstones are made from marble or granite, and they can weigh anywhere from 100 pounds to several tons. According to Wilson Roth, they use a truck-mounted hydraulic knuckle boom crane to repair headstones in newer cemeteries with a lot of row space. However, their truck can’t always move through narrow rows, and they don’t like to drive over burial sites. In these cases, Wilson and Jay needed to find a flexible system that was highly portable and easy to use.

That’s when they turned to local Spanco dealer Power-Draulics, Inc. to find a solution for their unique application. Power-Draulics recommended a two-ton aluminum gantry crane from Spanco.

The Solution
Aluminum gantry cranes are lightweight, portable, and extremely stable under load. One or two workers can move an aluminum gantry crane from one site to the next, making them ideal for lifting, restoring, and repairing headstones in tight spaces.

According to Wilson Roth, “It’s been really helpful to get through narrow rows without disturbing burial plots, which is exactly what we needed.”

The two-ton aluminum gantry includes an eight-foot span and eight feet under the beam. The crane is fitted with 16-inch diameter pneumatic tires that add an additional 12 inches in height. The swivel-locking casters with pneumatic tires also make it much easier to move the crane over grass, dirt, gravel, and soft cemetery ground.

The Spanco winch kit allows workers to adjust the gantry legs in six-inch increments quickly and easily. Once the gantry is assembled, they position it over the headstone and use tightening straps to choke it without causing any damage. According to Roth, “It’s really easy to remove the gantry legs and beam and throw it into the back of a work truck. We can complete an entire row of multiple repairs using the gantry crane, which speeds up the process and makes it much more efficient. This system has become an asset to our team.”

- Capacities up to three tons
- Rapid assembly and disassembly
- Optional pneumatic tires for easy travel
- Highly portable
- Gantry legs adjustable in six-inch increments
- Can be moved by one to two workers under load

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