

# Man gets 18 years for manslaughter

## Daleville resident, victim were drunk at time of stabbing

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OZARK — A Daleville man was sentenced to 18 years in prison for the stabbing death of an Ohio contract worker who confronted the Daleville man on his property.

The family of 47-year-old Ronnie Miller shouted and clapped after Dale County Circuit Judge P.B.



**Johnny Draugh**

McLaughlin sentenced Johnny William Draugh, 56, on Thursday to 18 years in prison, which was two years less than the maximum sentence for a class B felony.

The minimum sentence would have been two years.

Authorities said both Draugh and Miller were drunk when Miller approached Draugh on his property in February 2007 and demanded a title for a truck Draugh once owned. Police said Draugh then went into his home for a knife and stabbed Miller once.

Draugh entered a blind plea to manslaughter last month while he was on trial for Miller's murder.

He had been on probation prior to the sentence hearing.

A petition was signed in favor of Draugh by his co-workers at L&M Cleaners and a letter from Daleville Mayor Wes Etheredge was submitted

for leniency because of Draugh's hard work and dependability in the community, according to the Dale County District Attorney's office.

The few people who attended the hearing in support for Draugh on Thursday left the courtroom quietly after Miller's family had left.

Miller's wife, Danette, said during the hearing that even a "maximum" sentence would not bring her closure but was what Draugh deserved for taking someone's life.

"How can anybody take a life for any reason and act like it's no big deal? ... Every time he goes up for parole, his family will be there," she said.

"Our nightmare started a year ago, and Mr. Draugh's should start today."

Ronnie Miller had moved to Daleville from Ohio about a month prior to his death to do contract work at Fort Rucker.