

# Draugh gets 18 years for stabbing death

Special to the Sun-Courier

Johnny Draugh, 56, of Daleville, was sentenced by Judge P.B. McLaughlin, Jr. to 18 years for the stabbing death of Ronnie Miller. Last month, after a day and half long murder trial, Draugh entered a blind plea to Manslaughter. The sentencing range was from two to 20 years.

During the sentencing hearing, Steve McKinnon, owner of L&M Cleaners and Draugh's employer, testified that Draugh was a dependable employee having worked for him for over 20 years. A petition signed by the employees of L&M Cleaners stating that they did not have any problem working with Draugh was presented to the court. The defense also presented a letter from

Mayor Wes Etheredge asking for leniency in the sentencing of Draugh. Etheredge said in his letter that Draugh is a "hard working, dependable citizen in our community."

Three family members, including Miller's widow, testified for the state. Fourteen family members and friends of Miller traveled from Ohio to the sentencing hearing, seeking the maximum sentence for the loss of Miller.

Miller's sister, Lori Garen said the greatest thing she could say about her brother is that "he was all heart, and Draugh stabbed him right through the heart."

When arguing for stiff punishment, District Attorney Kirke Adam said, "Mr. Draugh has enjoyed his freedom since the day



Johnny Draugh

he killed Ronnie Miller, and today, his freedom should end, and he should start paying for his crime."

After the sentencing, Draugh was remanded into custody to begin serving his sentence.

"The success of this case can be directly attributed to the hard work of Harvey Mathis," Adams said. "Harvey went beyond the call of duty in all aspects of this case."

Mathis is a former investigator with the Daleville Police Department and currently the chief investigator for the Dale County Sheriff's Office.

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