

# Judge sends 10-time drunken driver to prison

'I have to take your keys,' judge tells military veteran found with whiskey bottle inside his car

By Scott Williams

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**ELKHORN** — A man convicted of drunken driving for the 10th time has been ordered to prison by a judge who told him, "I have to take your keys."

David Moran, 48, of Elkhorn, was sentenced March 14 to nine years behind bars, plus another six years of extended supervision during which he must remain sober.

It was the maximum

possible combined 15-year sentence, although the judge could have added one more year in prison in exchange for less supervision.

Supporters described Moran as a kind-hearted military veteran who they believe drinks excessively to ease his symptoms of post-traumatic stress syndrome stemming from his military duties.



Moran

his latest arrest was found weaving through traffic with a bottle of whiskey in the car.

Moran's blood-alcohol

"He is not a bad person," cousin Tony Ketchpaw said. "He just needs some help."

Prosecutor Matthew Leusink, however, said the defendant has failed several times to stay in rehab, and on the day of

content when police picked him up was .36 — more than four times the threshold for drunken driving — which Leusink called an "astounding" level of intoxication.

"The public does need to be protected here," Leusink added.

Police in Elkhorn arrested Moran after witnesses spotted him slam his vehicle into a parked car and then continue weaving down the street about 2:30 p.m. Aug.

PLEASE SEE DRIVER ON 7A