

# Driver

FROM PAGE 1A

18 on Walworth Street.

He had previously been convicted of operating while intoxicated nine times, starting in 1992 and most recently in 2007.

The Walworth County district attorney's office recommended that Moran serve the maximum 10 years behind bars followed by four or five years of extended supervision.

Defense attorney Melissa Frost asked for a lighter sentence of six years in prison, again citing the defendant's military service and telling the judge that her client accepts full responsibility for his actions.

"I don't know what drunk David is like," Frost said. "But I know that sober David is a pretty fantastic guy."

Moran addressed the court briefly, offering an apology: "I'm truly sorry for everything I've done."

The minimum sentence allowed by state law was four years in prison.

Walworth County Circuit Judge Kristine Drettwan thanked the defendant for his past military service, but she said being an alcoholic does not explain his repeated offenses of drunken driving.

The judge said it was "amazing" that Moran's history of operating while intoxicated had not resulted in his death or someone else's death.

"It has to stop. Your luck

is going to run out," she said. "You will kill someone."

After serving nine years in prison, Moran will remain under extended supervision with the state for six more years, during which he must remain sober, stay out of taverns, stay employed, and will lose his driver's license for three years.

Friends and family asked the court to show leniency, and then broke into tears when the judge announced her decision.

Steve Maize, a fellow military veteran, told the court that veterans health care programs were not effective, and that Moran needed help for a drinking problem that dates back to his days in the military.

"In the military," Maize said, "the whole mentality was drink, drink, drink."

Drettwan called it regrettable that veterans sometimes do not get the medical care they need.

The judge, however, said protecting the public was paramount in the case of a 10-time drunken driver. The sentence imposed on Moran, she said, should also serve as a deterrence to others in the community to show that repeated offenses of operating while intoxicated result in serious consequences.

Noting that in cases of drunken driving tragedies, the public's reaction often is to ask why a defendant was allowed to keep driving at all.

"I have to take your keys," she told Moran. "I can't trust you with them."