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Man gets 10 years in fatal stabbing

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NEW HAVEN— A Westville party among a bunch of “friends” led to a fatal stabbing and the imposition Friday of 10 years in prison for Daniel Pettilo, who attacked Josiah Alexander.

Superior Court Judge Roland Fasano imposed the 20-year sentence, suspended after 10 years are served, for first-degree manslaughter. Pettilo agreed to plead guilty to that charge in order to avoid going to trial

and risk a longer sentence.

The sentence was based upon an agreement by Pettilo’s attorney and the prosecutor, with input from Alexander’s family.

But Alexander’s aunt, Arlene Bobb, brought a long written statement to court that expressed the family’s devastation and bewilderment over Pettilo’s actions.

She cried and clutched a Bible as she struggled to read it.

In one section of her statement, which she omitted in her courtroom reading, Bobb wrote: “I don’t think this sentence is mild-

ly appropriate. This is not even a slap on the wrist sentence but a slight tap on the shoulder.”

She recalled how her nephew, 23, at the time of his death, was always smiling, but then she had to see him lying in a coffin. “No smile, no laughter, just lying with his eyes tightly shut.”

Addressing Pettilo in the courtroom, Bobb asked, “Why in the name of the Lord did you have to take a knife and plunge it into the body of my nephew? He was fresh and blood just like yourself. Did you think he was made of wood

or stone? Didn’t you think that he could die?”

Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Brian Sibley Sr. noted the stabbing occurred Nov. 21, 2010, at 15 Weststeigh Road during a party.

“It was a party, a group of friends,” Sibley said. “There was music, video games, drinking and per-haps marijuana use. It was not a vendetta.”

a courtroom statement in which he like Bobb, for-gave Pettilo.

Fasano agreed the case was sad and tragic. A bunch of kids at a party and this is how it ends up. It’s too often a part of life in this city.

“This was a group of friends,” Sibley said again. “And here we are, tragically, two families ripped completely apart.”

After court adjourned, Bobb said, “We just have to look forward but we can never forget Josiah.”

“The victim’s brother, Jerald Alexander, also read

On the last day I saw him, I’m going to take you home and lock you up. I didn’t want him to go to any parties. He just laughed. He always laughed.”

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