

# Cabbie's robber sentenced to 20 years

James Crawford was shot  
twice in November 2004

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Family and friends described Desuan S. Johnson as a young, soft-spoken man who would give you the shirt off his back.

But that same man strikes fear in the heart of Lynchburg cab driver James Crawford.

"I'm scared. I don't trust people anymore. I'm always looking over my shoulder. I guess I'll always be like that," Crawford testified in Lynchburg Circuit Court on Friday.

Crawford, 51, felt nervous as he sat about 20 feet away from Johnson, 22, who pleaded guilty in May to robbing and shooting the 20-year Allied cab driver.

"I think this young man deserves a harsh sentence. I'm scared of this guy. I don't know what he might do to me if he gets out again," Crawford said.

Circuit Judge Mosby Perrow agreed. He sentenced Johnson Friday to an active 20-year jail term for three firearm convictions, a robbery conviction and a malicious wounding conviction.

Johnson apologized to his family and Crawford during his sentencing hearing Friday.

"It's not part of my character. At the time there was just so much coming down on me," Johnson testified.

Crawford picked up Johnson just before 1 a.m. Nov. 28 at the intersection of Fifth and Polk streets. After they drove around for a little while, Johnson pulled a gun on Crawford and demand-



**Johnson**

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