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Convicted Felon Talks About Dangers Of Drinking And Driving

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The crowd inside the Gulf Breeze High School gymnasium collectively held their breaths then erupted into applause as Eric Smallridge, wearing a prison jumpsuit, handcuffs and leg shackles, walked out to center court. On May 11th, 2002, Smallridge was drunk, got behind the wheel and slammed into an on-coming car. Meagan Napier and her best friend, Lisa Dickson, were killed in the collision. Both women were only 20 years old.

Flanked by armed deputies, Smallridge embraced Meagan's mother, who publicly forgave him, eight years after Smallridge killed her daughter.

"I've honestly grown to love him now," says Renee Napier. "I've seen such a change in him."

"I wish there was something I could do to give their daughters back to them or to ease their pain," says Smallridge.

Napier recently asked a judge to reduce Smallridge's 22-year prison sentence. The judge agreed. Smallridge will now be released from prison in 2012.

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