

# Alex Pretti's Friends and Family Denounce 'Sickening Lies' About His Life

 [www.nytimes.com/2026/01/25/us/alex-pretti-minneapolis-shooting.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/25/us/alex-pretti-minneapolis-shooting.html)

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He was a calm presence amid hospital chaos. A mentor who taught kindness and patience to younger friends and colleagues. A singer with a knack for dancing. A bicyclist who treasured the beauty of Minnesota.

This weekend, the family, co-workers and friends of Alex Pretti, who was killed by immigration agents in a confrontation after he was apparently filming them, remembered his life, even as the circumstances of his death were debated on the national stage.

They shared photos of the Alex they knew: a smiling, bearded Mr. Pretti in the powder-blue scrubs he wore at his job as an intensive-care nurse at the Veterans Affairs hospital, an outdoors lover posing with his mountain bike on a wooded trail and a student wearing a green cap and gown as he sang a solo at his high school graduation in Green Bay, Wis.

And they denounced what they saw as smear campaigns in the aftermath of Mr. Pretti's death.

Image

Alex PrettiCredit...U.S. Department Of Veterans Affairs, via Reuters

Within hours of the killing by federal agents on a Minneapolis street, Trump administration officials labeled Mr. Pretti a "would-be assassin" and asserted, with no evidence, that he had committed an act of "domestic terrorism."

Through their own shock and grief, people who knew him struggled to rise above the lies and insults, they said, to describe who he was.

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