

Alex Miles Whittaker

March 22, 2005 ~ July 7, 2025

Alex Miles Whittaker passed away surrounded by nature on July 7th, 2025. Alex was born March 22nd, 2005, in Fairbanks, Alaska. At the tender age of five weeks early, Alex was already exceeding everyone's expectations, leaving the NICU after only five days, so eager was he to join mom, dad, and big brother at home. Alex's bright hazel eyes and deep dimples lit up the lives of everyone around him from day one. Unlike his more introverted family, from the moment he could speak, Alex would greet every stranger he passed in the supermarket with a grin and a loud "HI!" He seldom waited for a response, as baby Alex prioritized greeting every stranger he met over carrying on a conversation with just a few of them. Aidan couldn't say the name "Alex" at first, so Alex's family nickname became what Aidan could call him: "Augie".

Alex was raised in the small town of Healy, Alaska, spending his toddler years with his family of four in a 10x10 cabin which had high speed internet before it had indoor plumbing. Denali National Park was his backyard, and he loved camping, fishing, adventuring in the woods, and cutting down our yearly Christmas trees. Alex's curiosity and thirst for knowledge could have registered on the Richter scale. Alex gloried in science experiments, bouncing off walls, art, music, movies, the outdoors, creative dance classes, friends, family, pot stickers, Webkinz, Shirley Temples, Little Einsteins, Phineas and Ferb, the beauty and wildlife of Alaska, and finding creative ways to dispose of mashed potatoes his parents might have made him finish. (Rumor has it, the ghosts of mashed potatoes past still haunt the ceiling of his childhood home). He was an artist from very early, and the remnants of his Early Sharpie Period are still visible on the dashboard of his dad's oldest car. He learned sign language for "I love you" and made quick business of teaching it to everyone in his family. Soon he was signing "I love you" at every parting, a practice that continues in his immediate family to this day. He became a big brother at the age of six and a half, and he could not have loved his younger sister Cora or his baby brother Russell more. The adoration was mutual.

When Alex was 12, his family relocated to Utah to be nearer to relatives. Several years later, his parents remarried, and Alex's family grew to include two stepmothers, Margo and Andrea. Both stepparents were fortunate to have Alex in their lives, as he consistently exhibited kindness and love, which were always prevalent in Alex's presence, and welcoming these two new relationships was no exception.

Alex's insatiable curiosity continued into his teenage years. His skills bloomed as an artist, and he drew and painted a number of pieces which hang on the walls of family members to this day. He gifted his family many pieces, and we will forever cherish our Alex originals. After a limited number of piano lessons, Alex gave up on learning to read music and instead began to learn by ear (often in the car), rushing to the piano to play it as soon as he got home. No musical genre was too niche for Alex's tastes. He was equally at home playing video game themes and washing machine cycle sounds as he was navigating the majestic swells of Nessun Dorma.

While attending Providence Hall High School, Alex discovered a passion for the theater arts under an inspiring teacher and mentor. Alex charmed us all as a noble and gentle Colonel Brandon in “Sense and Sensibility” and made us laugh in his comedy roles in “Peter and the Starcatcher” and “You Can’t Take It With You”. He exceled behind the scenes as well, learning to run tech for his mom’s dance studio and working as the puppeteer for Audrey in “Little Shop of Horrors”. He prepared the piece “Les Poissons” from Little Mermaid for an audition and had his entire family in stitches as he perfected an over-the-top French accent. His comedic chops went beyond the stage, and his bone dry and at times sardonic wit were beyond his years. Alex competed a comedic monologue at State Drama Festival in 2022, and received the Region 15 Drama Best Actor award for 2022-2023. Alex graduated from Providence Hall High School in 2023, and the friendships forged within those walls were the most meaningful of his short life.

Alex was an excellent cook and delighted his family with recipes gleaned from YouTube. For Alex, no recipe was too complicated, no specialty kitchen appliance too unattainable. Inspired by the Pixar short named "Bao", Alex bought all of the ingredients and bamboo steamer baskets required to make enough bao to feed a small village. Alex made one batch which were deemed delicious by all, but then he never made them again, claiming the first batch not quite good enough. Alex’s perfectionism sometimes got in the way of him sharing his many talents outside of a close circle, but he never lost his desire to try new things. In the final weeks before his passing, he was energized by a new job in food service and working on his baking skills in his spare time. He baked bread at home and borrowed the fire pits of friends and neighbors as he learned how to make cheese bread on a campfire.

Alex was blessed to have known romantic love and to have formed deep friendships with a diverse group of amazing people spanning his many interests. His verve for life was infectious, and everything he did, he always wanted to do better. He would teach you how to become great at Smash Bros or chess, because he loved to teach, and because his victory would be so much the sweeter if he knew you were also playing at your best. No topic of conversation was out of bounds during car rides, (short or long) from the circulatory systems of frogs, to the curvature of Earth, to G-forces produced in launching into space, to the best ways to do a speed run in Super Mario Bros. Alex loved nothing more than talking nerdy with his family, gently teasing them with a grin on his face and a sparkle in his eyes. His generous heart was known and loved by all.

Alex is survived by his parents, Tad & Andrea (Posada Marquez) Whittaker and Susannah (Dodge) & Margo (Munson) Oliver, siblings Aidan (Anya Casper) Whittaker, Cora Whittaker, and Russell Whittaker, Grandparents Russell (Carol) Whittaker, Kristine Karlson, Ted (Kathy) Dodge, Kathleen (Marshall) Terry, Duke (Diane) Munson, Jewell (Calvin) McChesney, Carmen Rosa Marquez, and Heliodoro Lozano, as well as dozens of loving aunts and uncles, fifty-one first cousins, and hundreds more extended family, chosen family, and friends. We all mourn his loss deeply while celebrating the incredible memories that will carry him forever in our hearts.

Alex is preceded in death by his aunts Jennie Whittaker and Tammy Whittaker, cousin Mia Dodge, and all of his wonderful Great-Grandparents.

All who knew and loved Alex are invited to join his Celebration of Life at Wheeler Farm Activity Barn on Friday, July 18th at 12:00 PM. Doors will open at 11:30 AM

Twenty years were not enough. If love could have kept you alive, you would have lived forever.

The Celebration of Life was streamed via Zoom. To watch the previously held services, please click the "Watch Services" link above.