

competitor in archery, cycling, indoor rowing, powerlifting, track, and rugby.

And, unfortunately—but in some ways, you know, it showed her grit—a survivor of a random attack that left her paralyzed in a wheelchair. This incredible woman, Angela Harris is our Alaskan of the Week today.

So let's talk a little bit about Angela. YN1 Angela Harris joined the U.S. Coast Guard in the summer of 1998 after feeling a call to serve her country and see the world. Angela said:

The ocean's always been where I feel most at peace. It's where my soul feels recharged.

Angela and her family relocated when she was in the Coast Guard to Alaska on Christmas Day in 2005, after joining the Coast Guard's Arctic Planning and Operations Team—which they do a great job.

By the way, the Coast Guard in Alaska has now been renamed the Arctic Sector for the Coast Guard.

She fell in love with Alaska immediately, especially as she felt her work was making a real impact on these Arctic missions and in rural communities where our Coast Guard plays such an important role.

She said:

Seeing firsthand how critical the Coast Guard is to rural Alaska deepened my commitment to this mission [of the Coast Guard] and inspired me to continue supporting [Coast Guard] Arctic operations whenever possible.

For more than a decade, Angela worked in the Arctic operations of the Coast Guard, first stationed in Juneau and then in Anchorage, and was on Active-Duty orders when, unfortunately, her life suddenly was upended in February of 2022.

So what happened during that unfortunate time? She was returning books to the Anchorage library when she was attacked in a random assault by a mentally ill man that, unfortunately, left her with a severe spinal cord injury.

She spent more than a month in the hospital and even longer in physical therapy adjusting to this difficult life in a wheelchair. Angela said that she felt like everything was a fight. She pushed herself mentally and physically to heal from the attack while spending hours on the phone, unfortunately, with her insurance company.

And to make matters worse, the charges against her attacker were dropped after he was found to be incompetent to stand trial, even after it came out that this man had attacked other women before.

So this is a giant change, a very difficult change, in the life of Angela, and, let's face it, other people would have just given up. She didn't give up at all. She was on a mission. First, she decided to make sure that this kind of injustice wouldn't happen again. Angela reached out to Alaska lawmakers to share her story and push for change to make sure attackers couldn't just get away with hurting people, even if they were "incompetent to stand trial."

So after more than a year of work and advocacy, she got our Alaska legislature to pass a bill ensuring that dangerous individuals who are incompetent to stand trial will be held and evaluated for involuntary commitment.

That is right. Great job, Angela.

Victims of crime in Alaska now have the right to attend the involuntary commitment hearings for those who attacked them. Makes sense. She got it done. And they have the right to know the status of those involuntary commitment proceedings. This guy should have been put away and not attacking more women in Alaska.

Angela said:

Advocacy requires more than just passion. It demands endurance, community, and the courage to admit when the weight is too heavy to carry alone.

That is when others come and help you. Amidst the battle to pass her legislation and recover physically, Angela discovered another passion, which she excelled at: competitive sports. Nearly 2 years after her attack in 2024, she attended her first adaptive sports training camp in California, and here, Angela's life turned.

Think about this. She is now in a wheelchair. One sport stood out: wheelchair rugby. She said:

Wheelchair rugby lights a fire in me like nothing else; it's absolutely electric.

It was wheelchair rugby's team element that really drew her to the sport. She said:

What has truly moved the needle in my healing has been the community [I have] found within adaptive sports. This community has helped [me build and] rebuild parts of me I wasn't sure could ever be whole again.

Now, it wasn't just wheelchair rugby. Angela excelled in every sport that she has focused on, in so many other sports. It is incredible, to be honest. Let me go through the list. In the 2024 Department of Defense Warrior Games, she brought home gold medals in both the 4-minute and 1-minute indoor rowing events. In the 2025 Invictus Games, she brought home a gold medal in the 50-meter backstroke and a bronze in downhill skiing. Skiing, rugby, rowing—her greatest achievement at these games wasn't the medals, however; it was being honored by her teammates as one of two on the team chosen to carry the U.S. flag at the opening ceremony.

That is great. What a patriot. What a patriot.

So let me conclude, Angela is still doing so much, and, my goodness, her family is contributing to our country in a way that is really remarkable.

This February, Angela retired from the Coast Guard as an honorary chief petty officer, but her legacy in the U.S. military, particularly the sea services, continues. Her oldest daughter Kiana is a hospital corpsman second class in the Navy and was honored as Alaska's Armed Services YMCA Reservist of the Year in 2023. Middle daughter Ariana

has served in the U.S. Navy since 2022. And her youngest daughter Liliana just graduated from basic training in the Coast Guard and is now being trained as a hospital corpsman at the A-school. Three daughters, three servicemembers, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard—just like their heroic mom. All three daughters are now following in their mom's footsteps. No wonder. Their mom has got to be one of the best role models any young woman could hope for.

Our military serves as a reminder of our strength as a country, and no one personifies that better than Angela Harris.

Angela, your courage and strength, your incredible athleticism, your advocacy on victims' issues, all of this is unparalleled. Thank you for everything that you have done, for protecting Alaskans, our coast, future potential victims of crime, taking care of those great daughters, protecting our people. And most of all, congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, when my girls were little—and they are not little anymore; they are adults now. When they were little, I can remember, at times, I would be working from the house, in our little office space in the house, and one of the girls would crawl up in my lap.

She would look at me while I would be working on the computer, and she would say the same thing every time:

What'cha doin'?

Every time.

What'cha doin'?

I think about that when I think about the last 7 months here in the Senate. I have folks at home who will look at the U.S. Senate and say: What have you been doing for a while? "What'cha doin'?"

What has been good is to have been able to answer the question a lot. This has been the most productive beginning point for a new President in the first 7 months of the Senate in decades. Let me just walk through just a little bit of what we have been doing. We began this year by passing the Laken Riley Act, which requires ICE to start arresting illegal migrants who have committed crimes. Amazingly enough, that wasn't a requirement before. We fixed that.

We passed and made law the TAKE IT DOWN Act. This is about the revenge porn that we are seeing that has affected so many young lives. They are posting their images and sometimes using AI to destroy the lives of people they either hate, used to date, or whatever it may be. We now passed that and made that Federal law to be able to protect the youngest generation from that kind of vulnerability.

We passed the HALT Fentanyl Act, permanently classifying fentanyl-related substances as schedule I drugs.

Amazingly, we had to do that year after year. It was always a challenge. We started dealing with fentanyl in the serious manner that it needed to be dealt with. We passed that and made that law.

We passed the GENIUS Act, which puts the United States on the forefront of digital currency. This is not cryptocurrency. This is dealing with stablecoins, which is similar to a traveler's check only in digital form, to say, dollar for dollar, this creates new competition for credit cards and online shopping. It creates a way to do this to be able to put the United States and American currency in the lead in the digital world while still protecting physical currency and guaranteeing that physical American currency continues to exist.

Just those alone would be significant to get out when beginning a session, but we are not close to being done. The Senate has held more than 440 votes just this year so far. That is more than most years of the Senate, in total, in the last 30 years that we have done just in the first 6 months. That is more votes in the beginning of any session since the Reagan administration. We began with 10 straight weeks—day after day after day—of just pounding away to get stuff done.

We have worked on nominations, and this body is still working on confirmations even right now. We have confirmed, so far, 119 of President Trump's nominees. To compare that to this same spot 8 years ago in the first term of the first Trump Presidency, they had 56 who were done at this point. We have now done 119. We have done twice as many confirmations now as what we did under the first Trump administration, but we still have quite a few to go. This has been, though, doing this the easy way or the hard way for the past 7 months.

You see, confirmations typically are done by voice vote here in the U.S. Senate because we have work to do on legislative work as well. Unlike the House, we do personnel, and we do policy. We have to switch back and forth between the two often, but every time we are working on the personnel side—the confirmation side—every single nomination takes about 3 hours to file on them and to go through the whole period. There is also a day of waiting for those. But those are typically done just for the high-profile nominees. They are not typically done for every nominee. There are about 1,200 people who have to be confirmed. So, typically, things are done by voice vote.

Under President George W. Bush, 90 percent of his nominees were actually done by voice vote in the Senate. Under President Obama, 90 percent of those were done by voice vote. Under the first President Trump term, 67 percent of his nominees were done by voice vote. So far, in this Senate, zero—zero for every single nominee, even if it were the protocol officer for the State Department or a legislative

affairs person in an Agency or the deputy secretary assistant of something—literally those who no American other than their families know who they are. They had to go through the full 3-hour process and the intervening day to slow this down.

That has not happened to any President ever in the history of the country—ever. No President has ever faced this kind of obstruction ever for their nominees. We have still done 119 of those by staying and working at night and by staying and working on weekends. We will continue to do this the hard way or the easy way.

Quite frankly, President Trump should have the same respect as every other President in American history. He should be able to get his staff, so we will continue on this process as we already have. We will just keep moving through the process because what we are doing is trying to get the work done for the U.S. Senate.

We have taken on some issues that haven't been taken on in a long time. We did a rescissions package. That has not been done in 35 years. We not only talked about it, but we passed it, and we made it law. We as a body examined some areas, and we said: This seems like wasteful spending to me; we shouldn't do it.

We literally voted, took it out, and saved the American taxpayers \$9 billion from this year's budget. That has not happened in 35 years to be able to do that. How did we do that? Well, we identified some areas of waste in foreign aid and said: Do we really need to have this as a top priority?

We took away the funding that was used last year to create environmentally friendly reproductive health education for children in foreign countries. We took away the funding for Iraqi Sesame Street and for the Melanesian Youth Climate Corps. We took away the funding that created the grant for vegan food in Zambia. We took away the funding for the pride festival in southern Africa. We took away the funding for social media mentorships in Serbia and Belarus. We took away the funding for gender diversity for the Mexican street lighting industry.

We took away \$1 billion of funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. When many people said, oh, gosh, this is going to lead to the end of NPR and PBS—and it absolutely is not because, with NPR, 90 percent of it is funded by corporate and private funding already. This was the last 10 percent. Literally, this was something that was attempted to be done in 1983 under the Reagan administration to say: Why do we have federally taxpayer-paid journalists? Why don't we have that in the free market? If it made sense in 1983, it certainly makes sense now. In 1983, there were about four channels. Now, there are thousands. So what Reagan couldn't get done, we just got done.

That is a pretty productive Senate, but we are not close to being done with

the things that have already been accomplished just in the last 7 months.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. President, the One Big Beautiful Bill has been an interesting big, beautiful conversation. The one big, beautiful conversation is about what all is in it.

Well, it has been public for a long time. The House passed it, and it was over 2 months before the Senate was able to take it up. Even when we took it up in the Senate, we brought it out committee by committee, so everybody could see it, read it, and review it. It was 940 pages, but it was very public for weeks. We wanted everyone to be able to see what is in it. Quite frankly, there was so much that got done in that bill that people are still digging through it and going: Oh, I didn't know "that" happened.

It has been interesting the number of people whom I run into who say: I am finding out more about the bill, and the more I find out about it, the more I am grateful for its passage.

It has been really encouraging, when I get to go back home on weekends, to be able to chat with folks. My favorite so far was when my wife and I had dropped by a Dollar Tree store. I am there at the cash register, and there is a very nice lady who looked like she was in her midseventies. We were chitchatting, and she said to me: I saw you on the news, explaining the bill. I have looked at it even more, and I am so grateful because, as a working senior, I am going to get a big benefit for my taxes, and I need the help.

Then she smiled at me, and she said: You put some new work requirements into that bill. Thank you, because everybody needs to work like I do.

It was a great conversation, actually, to be able to chat with her and to be able to hear that she gets it—this bill and the things we were able to work in. We did a lot of things we tried to do for a long time but that we were able to get done.

One of the things that I worked on a lot was the issue of what is called full expensing. It is used by a lot of manufacturers and a lot of small businesses. You see, when they buy a big piece of equipment, they are allowed to write off the expense over several years. Well, that works for their taxes except for the first year, often, and it is a killer for them because, when they get a big, new piece of equipment, they often have to borrow money to pay their taxes that year because they can't afford to get both the new piece of equipment and still pay their taxes and the other expenses. So they either don't get the new equipment or they have to delay, delay, delay, delay to do it. What does that do? That decreases productivity.

It makes no difference to the Federal income in the Treasury to say you get to write it off in 1 year or you get to write it off in several years, but it makes a huge difference to that small business or that manufacturer to say