



Submitted Photo

Amanda Hoskins and Albert H. Small, sponsor of the Normandy Sacrifice for Freedom Institute, during her trip to the capital.

Coventry HS grad presents to Congress

Amanda Hoskins went to France in July as part of a research project; trip was just the beginning

JESSICA BOISCLAIR

jboisclair@ricentral.com

COVENTRY — A recent Coventry High School graduate was given the chance to take her hard work and research on a D-Day project and present it to Congress in Washington, D.C. in May.

Amanda Hoskins, who graduated from CHS earlier this month and will study communications at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut in the fall, said it all began when her Advanced Placement History teacher, Lisa Johansen, asked her class who would be interested in going to France with her.

She explained that she wrote her teacher a short letter explaining why she wanted to travel to France; Johansen then selected her for the trip.

Hoskins said once they had applied for a grant, and got accepted, they had to read eight books about World War II and participate in online forums with other students.

In 2011, Hoskins and her teacher were given the opportunity to travel to Normandy, France — the site of the Allied invasion on June 6, 1944 — to study about WWII and D-Day through the Albert H. Small Student and Teacher Institute.

She said she researched two soldiers from Rhode Island who fought on the beaches on Normandy: First Sergeant Henry Golas and Private First Class Michael Macera.

She also visited the sites of the Normandy invasion and the gravesites of the two soldiers.

She explained that one of her favorite parts of the

See HOSKINS, Page A-3

Hoskins traveled to site of 1944 D-Day invasion

Continued from Page A-1

trip was the research; a connection was made with the soldiers who fought during that time.

“When you study one or two people, you connect with them and it’s a lot more personal,” Hoskins said. “We spent more than a year researching these two men, studying the archives and military records and finally we were able to see where they fought. Just being on the beaches was surreal.”

Once she returned from France she was notified that she had been chosen to present at the Rhode Island Historical Society on April 5. She is the youngest presenter the society has ever given an audience.

She said she presented her research on the war and the two soldiers, along with information on her trip.

Hoskins said she designed a website that explains the soldiers’ lives in Rhode Island, how they got into the war and what was going on in the state during that time period. The website is www.jojoamericans.com.

“Being the youngest person ever to present at the Rhode Island Historical Society was a little scary,” she said. “It was a lot of preparation trying to make it perfect but once I was up there I was fine.”

She explained that the night she was presenting to the society, she received a call letting her know that she and Johansen had been selected to speak in front of an even bigger audience — the United States Congress in Washington D.C..

She said both she and her teacher had to write a speech to present in front of the 60 people that were there about their experiences thus far.

She explained that U.S. Senator Jack Reed and Rep. Jim Langevin were there for her pres-



Submitted Photo

Hoskins with Angela Lombardo, the sister of one of the soldiers she researched, Pfc. Michael Macera.

entation.

“I was in shock that they had chosen me,” she said. “There were many intelligent people I went on this trip with. I was a little nervous as well; they had chosen me over the other people, so I didn’t want to let them down. And I got a lot of positive feedback after, I met with people after the briefing and I was offered internships so it was a great experience for me.”