MR. LINCOLN ... — meet Ms. Daniel. The Lincoln Memorial was one of the stops on Macy Daniel’s tour during the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 10-16. She was chosen by Randolph Electric Membership Corp. for the event.

Editor’s note: “Trailblazer” showcases the positive things young people are doing. If you know someone who fits that description, email name, phone number/email address and a brief description of accomplishments to lpenkava@courier-tribune.com.

By Larry Penkava
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ASHBORO — Macy Daniel experienced a “once-in-a-lifetime” trip last week, thanks to Randolph Electric Membership Corp.

She was the local delegate in the 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour at Washington, D.C., from June 10-16. She joined 45 North Carolina delegates among the 1,800 youth from across the country. It was the 50th year that North Carolina cooperatives have participated.

Macy, a 16-year-old rising junior at Randolph Early College High School, was selected from other applicants based on her application, essay and interview.

“I really enjoyed my entire experience while in Washington, D.C., and...”

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER — Macy Daniel tours the tomb, which provides a look at the sacrifices of our armed forces, during a visit to Arlington National Cemetery.
Daniel

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couldn’t be more grateful for this opportunity,” she said. “I learned a lot of really valuable skills that will be useful moving forward in my career, such as communication and interpersonal skills.”

Macy said the group mixed business with pleasure during the week. “We were learning the cooperative business model,” she said. “My group did a mock cooperative with a board of directors, a manager and an assistant manager.”

On the pleasure side, they toured many of the monuments of downtown Washington as well as the Smithsonian Museum and the National Cathedral. They also attended a production of “The Sound of Music” at the Kennedy Center.

During a program at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Va., the entire group met for dinner in a “huge conference room.” Macy said they were able to “hang out and talk.”

In a meeting with the North Carolina contingent, Miss North Carolina, McKenzie Faggart of Mecklenburg County, spoke to them.

While in the nation’s capital, the delegates were able to meet with members of Congress and tell them about their concerns. During the week there was a shooting at a congressional baseball practice, with one member of Congress being wounded.

“The security was high,” Macy said. “Some representatives were unable to make it (to meet with the delegates). We were in the gallery (at the Capitol Building) when Speaker of the House Paul Ryan gave an address concerning the shooting. My mom was watching on TV and I was there.”

A highlight of the trip for Macy was having the opportunity to speak to delegates from all over. I was forced out of my comfort zone, to meet people I didn’t know and get to know them.”

Macy said she had two roommates, one from Cape Hatteras and the other from Pilot Mountain — making a diverse group in one room. “It was amazing to see the culture differences, the food choices and the speech patterns” of others from the same state.

“It was a great trip, a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” she said. “I thank REMC. They were very supportive, giving me what I needed to be prepared. “I really enjoyed going to D.C.,” she said, “especially the atmosphere. I may like to live there. It’s very different from little Asheboro.”

After graduation from RCHS, Macy said, she hopes to attend N.C. State University to major in biomedical engineering, then perhaps go to medical school.

THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL — The memorial was one of the stops during the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., that included Macy Daniel, a rising junior at the Randolph Early College High School.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED — Macy Daniel shares her experiences at the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., after returning to Asheboro. She called the trip a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ event.

Things most people may not know about Macy Daniel

She is heavily involved in volunteer work. She helps start and is president of the Junior Carton Club at RCHS, which has done a homeless awareness project and a food drive. Macy is also involved with Communities In Schools of Randolph County and the Randolph County Hospice House, and is a member of the Beta Club.

She likes to read, especially mystery books.

She and her parents, Tommy and Adena Daniel, travel to many of her brother Reece’s baseball games all over the Carolinas, Tennessee and Georgia. He plays baseball at Wingate University.

She loves being with her extended family, most of them attending Foster Street Wesleyan Church.