



## ELIZABETH "BESSIE" COLEMAN

Aviator (1892 - 1926)

Known as "Queen Bess," Coleman was the first African American woman, and the first woman of Native American descent, to receive a pilot's license. She was also the first person with African American and Native American heritage to have an international pilot's license. Coleman was born in Texas, but learned French and moved to Paris to become a pilot. She was a flamboyant and skilled stunt pilot who dreamed of one day opening a school for young black aviators (unfortunately, "Queen Bess" was thrown from a plane and died before she had the chance).