

# Wright Brothers National Memorial



# Bessie Coleman

First Female African American Pilot

**1893-1926**

On June 15, 1921, Bessie Coleman became the first African American woman issued a pilot license. Rejected from U.S. flight schools because of racial and sexual prejudices, she learned to fly in France. Returning home, Coleman worked for equality in the air and on the ground, inspiring a generation of African American men and women.

**To learn more, visit:** [www.nps.gov/wrbr](http://www.nps.gov/wrbr)

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