

Fly-Sister-Fly!



“90th Anniversary Celebration”

**6th Annual
Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy, Inc
Empowerment Breakfast**

**Wednesday, August 3, 2011
Louisville Downtown Marriott
Louisville, Kentucky**

About the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy Inc.

In 1995, the Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc. was established by a group of African American female pilots, and other African American aviation professionals and enthusiasts. In 2011, the name was changed to Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy, Inc. BCAL is based in Washington, D.C., and is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Our purpose is to be a major participant in the promotion of aviation, aerospace, and the legacy of Bessie Coleman so that all interested individuals may realize their full potential.



2011 - 2012 Officers

President – Thelma Rudd
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2011 Fly - Sister- Fly Empowerment Breakfast Committee

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Greetings from the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy, Inc.!

Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy, Inc

It is with humble respect and gratitude that the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy, Inc (BCAL) (formerly the Bessie Coleman Foundation) celebrates the 90th anniversary of Brave Bess' historic license and 40th anniversary of Eleanor Williams' historic certification as the first African American female Air Traffic Controller. We are also recognizing the 85th anniversary of her Queen Bess' tragic death and the recent passing of our BCAL member, Eleanor Williams.



Eleanor Williams and Thelma Rudd

Bessie Coleman and Eleanor Williams had a lot in common. They were both smart, beautiful, brown skinned and "fly" women from Texas. They knew that the doors to the skies must be opened to those who had been shut out. When Bessie Coleman sacrificed and became the first American to obtain an International Pilot's license from the renowned Federation Aeronautique Internationale on June 15, 1921, the door was opened. Fifty years later (1971), Eleanor Williams made her historic accomplishment to become the first "Full Performance Level" African American female air traffic controller and she "kept her foot in the door" to keep it open – thus ensuring that the Federal Aviation Administration provided a discrimination free work place. Queen Bess "refused to take no for an answer" and Eleanor Williams motto was "never let them see you sweat"! I am convinced that it is because of both of these great women, that I was successful at becoming a Memphis Enroute Air Traffic Controller.

Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space, took a poster of Bessie Coleman with her in space and has stated, "I point to Bessie Coleman and say without hesitation that here is a woman, a being, who exemplifies and serves as a model to all humanity: the very definition of strength, dignity, courage, integrity, and beauty." I point also to Eleanor Williams.



So please join us as we celebrate these great women and our 2011 Sisters of Distinction at the Fly-Sister-Fly Empowerment Breakfast on Wednesday, August 3, 2011. Our honorees are: **Doreen Branch, Dr. Annette Douglas, Lillian Dukes, Tammera Holmes; First Officer Stacey Marcus; First Officer Patricia White; and Jacqueline Withers.** We will also meet Team Bessie – Joyce Parker and Athina Holmes. These women made history this year in being the first all black female team in the Air Race Classic and please help us to congratulate the graduates of the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy!

BCAL is extremely grateful for our partnership with the Organization of Black Aerospace Professional and this year's Fly-Sister-Fly Empowerment Breakfast sponsor – American Airlines/American Eagle. Because of this relationship, we will be providing scholarships to a few lucky aeronautical students. Please enjoy this great conference and thanks so much in helping us to continue the legacy of Queen Bess!

It looks like a good day to fly,

Thelma Rudd

Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy, Inc President.

Welcome to The 2011 OBAP / NBCFAE / BCAL Breakfast

In a world sprinkled with unwarranted hyperboles and exaggerations; it should not be taken lightly that occasions such as these are truly rare! For in this very room lies the nexus and future of aviation and the African American community. There has been and remains a great commonality and simmering passion between the two; and so on this morning we have come to honor not only the legacies and accomplishments of those who inspired us all, and in fact a nation to dream and soar beyond the limits of our circumstances. We are also to celebrate this cadre of promising young men and women. Each of them; articulate, accomplished and focused, represent the future of our profession and community - and that future looks bright!!

The National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE), The Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) and The Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership (BCAL) share a common vision. That vision is to promote aviation not only within the African American community, but the world over. To stimulate and foster interest in this profession and enable a pathway to encourage and finance support their pursuits. Your support and attendance this morning helps to make real the promise these young aspiring aviators offer. I thank you for your support and presence. Please enjoy your breakfast. I encourage each of you to mingle, network and share in the rich heritage of our profession, and the promise of its future!

Thomas L. Johnson

BCAL, Inc. Chairman of the Board

Celebrating 90 Years of Continuing the Legacy of Queen Bess

Introduction of Master of Ceremonies

Nancy Lawrence PhD BCAL Director

Master of Ceremonies

First Officer Ernest N. Taylor

Delta Airlines

Welcome to Louisville

Councilwoman Judith Green

Council District 1, Louisville, KY

Welcome to the 2011 Fly-Sister-Fly Empowerment

Thomas Johnson

BCAL, Inc. Chairman of the Board

Spiritual Blessing

Principle Chief Martin

Cherokee Tribe of Kentucky

Breakfast is Served

"Team Bessie"

Joyce Parker and Athina Holmes

Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy Graduation

Thelma Rudd – BCAL President

Message to the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy Graduates

Lillian Dukes – American Eagle

Presentation of Bessie Coleman Scholarships

Nancy Lawrence, PhD

Introduction of Fly-Sister-Fly! Sisters of

Rosalyn Cole

Sharing Cherished Moments with the Sisters of Distinction

Reflecting on Bessie Coleman's background and her accomplishment as the first American to earn an International Pilot's License from Federation Aeronautique International ninety years ago, June 15, 1921 - Each Honoree will share what aspect of Bessie Coleman they can most relate.

Questions from Audience to Honorees

Why I think it is important to be a BCAL member!

DeBora Catron

BCAL, Inc. 2011 Empowerment Breakfast Chair

Acknowledgements

Bessie Coleman Family Representative

American Airlines/American Eagle Representative

OBAP Representative

Thelma Rudd – Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy President

The BCAL Members and Supporters and our Fly-Sister-Fly Sisters of Distinction are cordially invited to attend BCAL Annual Membership Meeting from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Marriott Downtown Clubhouse meeting room.

In remembrance of the 90th anniversary of Queen Bess' historic pilot's license on June 15, 1921, the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy, Inc (BCAL) recognizes eight honorees for their efforts in continuing Bessie Coleman's legacy!

BCAL Fly-Sister-Fly Honorees for 2011



Doreen Branch

Private Pilot – Director Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy, Inc

Dr. Annette Douglas

Behavioral Scientist

Consulting Services

Lillian Dukes

Vice President – Base Maintenance
American Eagle

Tammera Holmes

President & CEO

Aerostar Corporation

First Officer Stacey Marcus

UPS Pilot, OBAP Dover ACE Academy Lead

First Officer Patricia White

Boeing-777 pilot, United Airlines, the first African American female US Air Force Academy graduate to successfully complete and graduate pilot training

Jacqueline Withers

Founder - Take Flight Leadership Aviation - Fly Girls

“The Artist” – specializing in Murals

Fly-Sister-Fly 2011 Honoree

Doreen Branch



"I see BCAL as an organization that will assist all minorities, not just African-Americans, in their pursuit of a career in aviation."

Doreen Branch comes from an aviation oriented family. Her mother and father would take her and her sisters to airports to watch planes take off and land. This began in the 60's when they would go watch the planes at Newark, N.J. and continued when the family moved to Maryland where their mother would take them to watch planes at National Airport in Washington, D. C.

Her older sister took a few flying lessons and worked as a customer service rep for a major airline. Her mother volunteered at Tampa International Airport, and her younger sister began taking flying lessons shortly after Doreen obtained her license.

Doreen joined a flying club at Howard University and began taking flying lessons in 1983 at Washington Executive Airport in Clinton, Maryland. She obtained her private pilots certificate in 1986. Her family was very supportive. Doreen flies strictly for pleasure. Doreen is a member of the International Organization of Women Pilots also known as the 99's. She was chair of a local chapter in Maryland for 2 years.

Doreen joined the Bessie Coleman Foundation serving as secretary for more than 10 years and now as a board member. Doreen along with several members of the BCAL participated in aviation career days, speaking engagements and space camps.

Most recently Doreen bought a Grumman Cheetah airplane - a four seat low wing airplane. She is now a member of the American Yankee Association which is an association of Grumman owners. Finally she is a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association - AOPA.

Fly-Sister-Fly 2011 Honoree

Dr. Annette Douglas



In 2009, Dr. Annette Douglas, the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE) in her second term as National Education, Recruitment and Training Chairperson presented an annual grant to Florida Memorial University (FMU) for its aviation related programs. At FMU students may receive a Bachelor of Science degree that can lead to positions such as: Aeronautical Engineer, Airline Pilot, and other aviation related professions that supports and endorses Bessie Coleman's legacy. She is currently writing courses that will be part of the FMU curriculum. We are familiar with FMU as the school of higher learning that

supported Barrington Irving's historic flight.

Several years ago while serving in her first term as NBCFAE ERT Chairperson, Dr. Douglas started the first Aviation Career Education (ACE) academies that was held under the employee association. The NBCFAE ACE academies, mostly summer camps geared towards middle-high school students who are interested in aviation and aerospace, have now reached over 5,000 youths worldwide.

A member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), AT-SO Committee, Dr. Douglas continues to assure through a number of minority organizations that equal employment opportunity and fair civil rights are justifiably enacted. As a retired federal employee, Dr. Douglas continues to serve on federal task forces, governmental committees, and corporate boards in both the private and public sectors. Due to her interface in these sectors, diversity in key aviation occupational and mission critical positions has been changed to include minorities. Her courage, determination and "refusing to take no for an answer" continues to be the catalyst in her work to change yesterday's and today's racial stereotypes. Dr. Douglas life's mantra is to assure each person that "they can be whatever and whomever they choose to be."

I am very proud to have the opportunity to submit Dr. Annette Douglas for a 2011 "Sister of Distinction Award."

Fly-Sister-Fly 2011 Honoree

Lillian Duker



Education: BS, Electrical Engineering and Mathematics at Carnegie-Mellon University; Master's degree, Electrical Engineering, Villanova University

First Job: Referee for girls' volleyball

What I'm Reading: Financial Peace, by Dave Ramsey

My Philosophy: Integrity is not negotiable.

Family: 17 brothers and 3 sisters.

Interests: Involved in medical missions to Haiti.

Favorite Charities: Medical Wings International

I do not consider myself to be a traditional mentor. In my view, mentoring develops over time through an established relationship.

A mentoring relationship cannot be achieved without mutual trust. Trust is accomplished through sharing ideas, building confidence and maintaining a connection. It is crucial to have trust, especially when constructive criticism needs to be provided to help people along their career paths. Mentoring is essential to a person's professional growth because, while accomplishments get you "to the door," relationships help you get "through the door."

A mentor can become extremely important, particularly as challenges occur. While mentors cannot predict what lies ahead, they can provide guidance to turn challenges into opportunities. I have had opportunities that presented themselves at inopportune times. For example, I have relocated several times. It is never easy, but you must go where the opportunities are – opportunities do not come to you.

One of the best pieces of advice I can offer is to take a big-picture approach. My career started at General Electric (GE), where I had to do rotational assignments before I could be placed in one specific job. While this is not a traditional way of getting placed into a job, the program allowed me to better understand my division. Because of that program, my curiosity has led me to many roles with my employers. Grasping the larger view provides improved perspectives and helps avoid becoming complacent.

I spent 11 years with the American Airlines Maintenance and Engineering organization, where I held leadership roles in purchasing, inventory control, engineering, component maintenance and production control. In 2001, I left American to become the Director of Technical Services at Midwest Airlines. I then went to Independence Air to be Vice President of Maintenance.

Each role was challenging, but it kept me constantly learning new things. My positions at other airlines helped me hone my skills and eventually led me back to American Eagle. If I had not been willing to move, I would have missed out on some great learning experiences. I am thankful that my mentors taught me to move out of my comfort zone, embrace obstacles and follow my passion. I hope someone in your life challenges you to do the same.

Fly-Sister-Fly 2011 Honoree

Tammera L. Holmes

President & CEO Aerostar Corporation



At the age of 16, Ms. Holmes was introduced to the world of aviation by the Tuskegee Airmen Inc., (TAI) Young Eagles Program sponsored by the Chicago DODO Chapter. That day she took her first flight and it was a life-changing experience for her. She decided that day to pursue a career in aviation.

Tammera graduated from Proviso East High School in Maywood Illinois with Honors and having accumulated a semester of college credit, she enrolled at Southern Illinois University to major in Aviation Flight/Management and Spanish. After only four weeks of flight training, she was one of the first in her class of over 200 students to fly "solo" in an aircraft. After serving as an intern with United Airlines and Chicago Midway International Airport, she graduated from SIU in 2000, having completed both the Spanish and Aviation Programs in 4 ½ years. While at SIU, Tammera was in the University Honors Program and was on the Dean's list.

In 2001, she began her professional aviation career by assuming employment with one of the nation's leading Aviation Consulting Firms. As first a Facilities and Operations Analyst, then an Environmental Consultant, she provided a wide variety of planning services for both large and small air carrier airports. Ms. Holmes performed data analysis and comprehensive data reporting; providing technical writing, research and analysis, executing numerous presentations to discuss airport-related issues with officials in both the public and private sectors.

In 2004, Ms. Holmes reconnected with the Tuskegee Airmen Chicago Chapter, and has developed a last relationship with them for planting the seed of aviation in her as a youth. In 2005, Ms. Holmes was featured in a publication dedicated to the City of Chicago's Dynamic Women in Aviation. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management from SIU. In 2008, she launched AeroStar Consulting Corporation in an effort to pave the way for tomorrow's leading professionals within the aviation industry and in 2010 Ms. Holmes achieved her goal of entrepreneurship, operating as President & CEO of AeroStar full-time.

One of the main focuses of AeroStar is to introduce students from K-12 to careers in aviation as well as provide a support system to post secondary students seeking aviation-related licenses, certifications and degrees through their Aviation Academic Initiative. AeroStar's Initiative seeks to expose students across the Chicagoland Area to the vast number of career opportunities within aviation industry through curriculum, internships, mentors and afterschool programs. This vision has been well received by organizations and corporations in the Industry and AeroStar expects to see this support grow as educators continue to seek viable resources to enhance their instruction and businesses realize the need to invest in their next generation workforce.

Ms. Holmes has volunteered countless hours as a motivational speaker, conference presenter and mentor, addressing topics ranging from careers in aviation to successful leadership and management. Her passion to see companies develop meaningful relationships with academic entities and organizations within their communities, has helped her to set an unprecedented pace for growth amongst highly qualified young people and minorities within corporate America.

Fly-Sister-Fly 2011 Honoree

Stacey Marcus



Some people fall in love at first flight; others fall in love at first bite. Stacey Marcus fell in love with airplanes on her very first airplane ride from New York to Washington, DC at age 6. Thus, it was love at first flight.

The courtship began when she enrolled as a student at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. She received all of her pilot licenses at the same time she earned her Bachelor's degree. Like Robert, she was qualified to fly, but did not have the required flying time for commercial planes. To gain the experience she needed to apply for commuter

and major airlines, she obtained worked as flight instructor which she did for four years. And she has been flying ever since. She flew for American Eagle for two and a half years, and has been with working for United Parcel Service (UPS) for over 13 years.

As with any relationship, there are good times and there are challenges. Generally speaking, Stacey has had quite a successful in her career. Not only did she have lots of family support; she was blessed to have landed a job in the industry she loved even as layoffs were occurring. "Traveling around the world at someone else's expenses" is an additional blessing. Her travels have taken her to Europe, the Middle East, Australia, and Asia.

She could not recall any obvious challenges. However, being one of seven Black female captains in the airline industry is hardly unnoticeable. Stacey is hopeful that "sometime within the next 10 years there will be significantly more than seven [captains]." On a more positive note, there seems to be a larger pool of black female pilots that are just getting on with major commuter airlines, but it is taking them longer to obtain the "left seat" due to the economy and shrinking pilot forces.

To young people that want to be airline pilots, Stacey shares the following wisdom:

- Never let anyone tell you that you can't do anything for whatever reason regardless of finances, race, or sex.
- If you want to do something, do it.
- If someone is offering to help you obtain your goals, accept it. In the future, look to offer that same amount of help to someone else.

This concludes Stacey Marcus' tale of love at first flight. Her love of flying is as strong today as it was when she first fell in love at first flight over 35 years ago.

Fly-Sister-Fly 2011 Honoree

Patricia Irene White



1981 ~ Graduated salutatorian from Clarkton High School located in Clarkton, NC. Member of the Beta Club (High Honor Club), and Honor Society.

1981 ~ Received the nomination to the United States Air Force Academy from the late Congressman Charlie Whitley. Each Congressional member has only two allocations per year. She was 1 of only 2 slots per Congressman Whitley allotted for 1981! The only way to attend the service academies is via a Presidential nomination or Congressional nomination.

1981 - 1982 ~ Attended the US Air Force Preparatory school located in Colorado Springs, CO.

1982 - 1986 ~ Attended the US Air Force Academy located in Colorado Springs, CO and received a Bachelor of Science degree

1986 – 1987 ~ Attended pilot training at Vance AFB, Enid, OK. ***She was the first African American female US Academy graduate (of all service academies) to successfully complete and graduate pilot training.***

1987 – 1990 ~ Assigned to fly C-141B aircraft at McChord AFB, WA. She worked with the Sam Bruce Tuskegee Airman Chapter, located in Seattle, WA, speaking at local schools and various functions to youth about piloting opportunities and aviation careers.

1990 – 1992 ~ Assigned to fly Beechcraft King Air at Kadena AFB, Okinawa, Japan.

1992 ~ Separated from the US Air Force to pursue commercial airline career with United Airlines. She had a total of 13,328 hours on the above USAF aircraft. She started to fly on the *Shuttle and now one of five black female pilots at United Airlines. She is currently flying B-777 aircraft on international routes with over 2,215 flying hours! First Officer White has over 15,543 hours in the sky...soaring through "The Legacy of Bessie Coleman and Tuskegee Airman"!*

She is Mrs. Zella J. White and First Sgt. Audrey H. White (deceased) daughter of Clarkton, NC. She enjoys traveling, financial/real estate investments, skiing, golf and outdoor events.

Fly-Sister-Fly 2011 Honoree

Jacqueline Withers

Detroit Chapter member **Jacqueline Withers** has been accepted in the Doctorate of Organizational Leadership program and her article on the Tuskegee Airmen has been published in the Argosy University book called Common Thread. This book goes out to all the Argosy Universities. She is publish on a DVD call Public Art, which will be available on-line some. Jacqueline received the NAACP Youth Council Award 2011, Outstanding Mentor Certificate of Achievement. She can be referenced on 17 different web sites telling the story of her work with children. She Thanks God for the gift to help children and telling the story of Tuskegee Airmen as a dream come true. She say's —A lot of people don't realized that when she start painting —Eyes in the Sky she asked God if she could meet 3 (Documented Original) Tuske-gee Airmen and he has brought me more than that. Now I feel like family. I am blessed to be alive to witness history and shake hands with it. Please help Jacqueline keep her dream alive. She is avail-able to paint themed murals with children in other States. She can be reached at 303 282 5742. Below are pictures from her latest activities.

About “The Artist” – Jacqueline Withers is an accomplished mural artist who attends the Art Institute of Colorado, majoring in Design Management. She recently completed a mural for the Denver’s Children Home that encompasses history from the ancient Egyptians to the famous Tuskegee Airmen. In fact, she was recently awarded The Tuskegee Airmen, Inc’s “Hero Youth Award” in July 2010 for her commitment to Denver youth.

“The Artist” has graciously donated two murals to BCAL, one of Bessie Coleman and another depicting both Bessie Coleman and Ida B Wells. That mural will be donated to and archived at the Ida B Wells Museum in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Ida B. Wells served as the Mistress of Ceremony at Brave Bessie’s funeral in Chicago.



Master of Ceremony

Ernest N. Taylor, Jr.

**Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy Member
and Advisor to the Organization of Black
Aerospace Professional's Board.**

Ernest hails for Miami, FL. He parlayed a flying lesson he received for his 16th birthday into a dual career as a pilot, first for the Navy, then for Northwest Airlines. Earning his private pilot's license as he graduated from high school, Ernie attended Miami-Dade Community College receiving an Associate of Arts degree and then his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Dillard University, New Orleans, LA where he graduated cum laude.

Upon graduation he entered Aviation Officer's candidate school in Pensacola, FL and was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy. He attended pilot flight training and received his Navy "Wings of Gold". What began as a four-year stint turned into a 23 year Naval Career. Commander Taylor has flown various Naval aircraft including the P-3C Orion, S-3B Viking, E-2C Hawkeye, and the SH-3 Sea King helicopter. Diverse assignments have included deployments to the Western Pacific/Indian Ocean region, Mediterranean Sea, Sicily, Iceland, and other locations around the world. As a manager and leader he has lead Navy and civilian personnel and managed multi-million dollar budgets in operational squadrons and at Headquarters commands in San Diego, CA and Washington D.C.

Before retiring from the Navy Commander Taylor returned home to Miami as Commanding Officer, Navy Recruiting District, Miami. He was responsible for all Navy Officer and Enlisted recruiting programs in Central and South Florida including Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands.

Ernie's boyhood dream to become a commercial airline pilot came true when he joined Northwest Airlines (Now Delta Airlines). With over 10,000 hours of flying time he has served as Second Officer on the Boeing 727, First Officer on the Boeing 727, Airbus 319/320 and Boeing 757, while conducting scheduled passenger operations, both domestic and international.



Dr. Judith “Judy” Green

Louisville District 1 Councilmember

Wife, mother, medical professional, children’s, and civic activist, Dr. Judith “Judy” Green has been actively involved in the uplifting and betterment of people in the area all of her adult life

During her 1st year on the Metro Council, Councilwoman Green served as Vice-Chair of the Parks, Libraries, and Zoo committee. She also served on the Public Safety and Minority Affairs committees. In 2008, Dr. Green was elected as Vice-Chair of the Democratic Caucus. In 2011, she currently serves as Vice – Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee.



For more than 20 years, Dr. Green has been a practicing Dentist. She has served as a Regional Member at Large of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and as a national board trustee of the Jack and Jill’s Foundation. Jack and Jill is a service organization which seeks to improve the social, civic, and educational attainment of African American children. She is a member of the Eta Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. As a 1994 graduate of Leadership Louisville, she has served as a 1995 Bingham Fellows, and a 1996-98 past board member, and a recently named board member of the Leadership Louisville Foundation. She also was recently selected as one of Leadership Louisville’s 100 Wise Women.

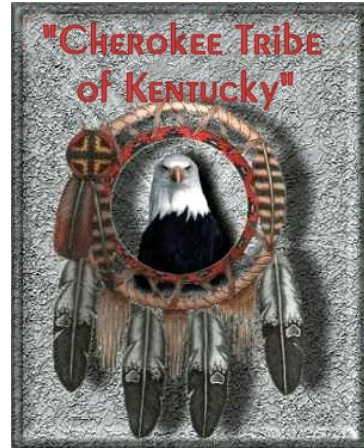
She is a member of the St. Stephens Baptist Church, where she serves as a Decision Counselor for those persons seeking to give their life to Christ.

"I am honored to have been chosen as a trustee of this great community. I love talking with and working with the citizens of District 1, and all of Metro Louisville” says Councilwoman Green. “I want to encourage them to call my office anytime with a problem or concern. Together we will work to get the problem solved, and to make District 1 a better place in which to live, work, and play."

In Respectful Remembrance of Bessie Coleman's Native American Heritage

Marty Martin, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Tribe of Kentucky will bless our 90th Celebration of Queen Bess' historic license! Members of the "Cherokee Tribe of Kentucky" have pledged to conduct themselves as individuals, and as a People, by the following Principles:

- T**reat the Earth, and all that dwell thereon, with Respect.
- R**emain close to the Great Spirit.
- S**how great Respect for your fellow beings.
- W**ork together for the benefit of all Mankind.
- G**ive assistance and kindness whenever and wherever needed.
- D**o what you know to be right.
- L**ook after the well being of mind, body and spirit.
- D**edicate a share of your efforts to the greater good.
- B**e truthful and honest at all times.
- T**ake full responsibility for your actions.



They further pledge to be a People of Respect, Integrity, Honor and Peace.

“Team Bessie” Takes to the Skies



Athina Holmes and Joyce Parker at Tuskegee Fly-In

Aviation history was made from June 21-24, 2011, as Joyce Parker and Athina Holmes came together to form “Team Bessie,” the first ever, all-African American female air race team to compete in the nationally-recognized and sponsored Women’s Air Race Classic (ARC). It was many, many months of planning, preparation, and expense that culminated in four challenging but exhilarating days of competition flying from Alliance, NE to Mobile, AL. When the dust settled, “Team Bessie” didn’t quite make it to the leader board, but, many (air racing) lessons were learned, ‘sisterly-bonds’ were forged with female aviators from all walks of life, and the experience and adventure were priceless!



Athina Holmes and Joyce Parker with BCAL Board Member, Dr. Nancy Lawrence

Joyce, who was the pilot of the team and Athina, the copilot, ‘met’ through their mutual membership in the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy (BCAL) organization formerly known as the Bessie Coleman Foundation (BCF). Athina flew the Women’s Air Race Classic in 2009, placing 7th, so she was eager to fly the race again. Joyce had been following the race for the past several years and decided that this was the year she WAS going to race. With the support of Thelma Rudd, President of BCAL, the two met, and, the rest as they say, is history!!!

Women’s air racing began in 1929, with 21 women flying the first race (which included the famous female aviatrix, Amelia Earhart) from Santa Monica, CA to Cleveland, OH. Air racing has continued from that time on until the present under three different organizational names but, its purpose and mission has remained the same: to encourage and educate current and future

women pilots; to increase public awareness of general aviation; to demonstrate women's roles in aviation, and to preserve and promote the tradition of pioneering women in aviation.

In competing in the 2011 ARC, Team Bessie's mission was to indeed promote the tradition of the famous African-American female pioneer, Elizabeth 'Queen Bess' Coleman. Their main purpose was to introduce, educate, and expose the flying and non-flying public and especially African-American women, to the outstanding achievements, accomplishments, and historical impact of Bessie Coleman. She has been and still is Team Bessie's inspiration and motivation for flying and by participating in this year's air race **as a team**, they hoped to have done their part in keeping her legacy alive as well as proving to all who would take notice, that African-American females can fly and race airplanes, too!!!.

Team Bessie is looking forward to competing in next year's air race with the goal is of continuing Queen Bess' legacy and representing BCAL in greater numbers by fielding another air race team, "Team Bessie Two."

To learn more about Bessie Coleman and "Team Bessie," please visit their website at www.teambessie.com.



Joyce Parker and Athina Holmes with Dr. Jilda Motley, Bessie Coleman's great-niece

Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy

*In recognition of Bessie Coleman "Queen Bess"-
Who on June 15, 1926 became the first American citizen to receive an
International Pilots License.*

What is the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy?

The Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy is a two day workshop designed to utilize the proven skills of Bessie Coleman to expose and influence young women (ages 18-24) to set goals, and to consider aviation and aerospace technology as a career.

Participants will become familiar with careers in aviation and aerospace through tours, guided discussion with professional aviators and lectures. They will also explore practical leadership skills such as financial literacy, setting goals, conflict resolution, and communication, through workshops and seminars.

What's in it for me?



Queen Bess!

The Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy is all about preparing you to be successful!

- You will be given the unique opportunity to meet African-American women who are successful in aviation and aerospace technology.
- You will also be taught leadership skills that will be useful wherever your life takes you.
- You will discover how to use your talents to become a positive influence to society.
- You will be a better person because of your knowledge of

What will it cost me to attend?

Two and a half days of your time. **"THAT'S ALL!!"** The Bessie Coleman Aerospace Academy is **FREE!**

Who is eligible to apply? - Young women between the ages of 18-24 (high school graduates), who are ready to put their minds to work, who are prepared to develop themselves and pursue success on every level! You must be able to provide your own transportation to and from workshops.



Visit the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy website:
www.WeAreTheLegacy.com for more information