

The Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc. honors Ms. Mary McDaniel And the 86th Anniversary of Bessie Coleman's Historic Memphis Flight At the Memphis International Airport

On Monday, October 20th, the legacies of Queen Bess, Ms. McDaniel and MCS alumni were the buzz at Memphis International Airport. The Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc. (BCF) recognized Ms. Mary McDaniel (VP FedEx Express) for her commitment to Aviation Career Educational (ACE)



Sandra Stone is the proud winner of a Bessie Coleman poster. From left to right are: Vanessa Jones, Mary McDaniel, Thelma Rudd, Sandra Stone and Angela Campbell.

camps and to local youth while celebrating Bessie Coleman's historic October 12, 1922 Memphis Tri-State Fair flight. In an effort to applaud the extraordinary accomplishments of the Memphis City Schools (MCS), an exhibit of MCS alumni who have found success in aviation and aerospace was displayed.

The BCF President, Thelma Rudd presented Ms. McDaniel with a copy of "Queen Bess" by Doris Rich and with a 1995 First Day Cover issue of the Bessie Coleman Stamp. Ms. McDaniel also received a certificate of appreciation from Memphis City



Councilman, Myron Lowry. Attorney and Memphis Shelby County Airport Authority (MSCAA) Board Member Ruby Wharton applauded this event and vowed to make it an annual one for the Memphis airport. MSCAA manager Richard White received a thunderous applaud when he explained why the aviation community must be involved with public schools and why the recent art contest that the MSCAA sponsored was so important to him. The participating student's art work is displayed throughout the Memphis Airport. Guests enjoyed complimentary food and beverages while listening to the smooth sounds from guitarist Damien Pierce. Ms. Angela Campbell designed and baked the cakes shown to honor Ms. McDaniel and Queen Bess. Pictured below are the Federal Aviation Administration's Flight Safety District Office Memphis Manager. J. D. Barton and other guests.



In the early 1900's Queen Bess did not accept the prevailing American belief that an airplane would not respond to her because her skin was brown and because she was a woman. She wanted to ensure that all had an equal chance to participate in the skies! She said that she wanted to turn Uncle Tom's Cabin into a flying hangar. As a result on June 15, 1921, the beautiful, courageous, "fly" Bessie Coleman became the first American to receive an International Pilot's license from France's Federation Aeronautique Internationale (F.A.I.).

This license allowed her to fly anywhere in the world. Her historic flight at the Memphis Tri-State Fair is archived at the Memphis International Airport.

Like Bessie Coleman, Ms. McDaniel has a strong passion for community service. An alumnus of Southwest Tennessee Community College, she was recently appointed to the position of Vice Chair of the Board of Foundations for the institution. She also serves on the boards of Inner-City Scouting and the Mid-South Minority Business Council. She is also a member of The Links, Incorporated, and Shelby County Chapter. Her professional affiliations include board memberships with CAPS Research and the International Aviation Women's Association.

The purpose of the Bessie Coleman Foundation 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. For more information please visit www.WeAreTheLegacy.com