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AS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN, AND NATIVE AMERICAN, FEMALE PILOT, BESSIE COLEMAN WAS UNABLE TO PURSUE OBTAINING A PILOT'S LICENSE IN THE UNITED STATES, THUS MOVING TO FRANCE TO BECOME AN EXHIBITION FLIER. SHE WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO PUBLICLY FLY, PERFORMING LOOP-THE-LOOPS AND FIGURE EIGHTS. AMONG HER VARIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS, BESSIE WAS KNOWN FOR ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS TO PURSUE FLYING AND FOR FIGHTING AGAINST SEGREGATION.

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