

Bessie Coleman

Occupation: Pilot
Birth Date: January 26, 1892

Bessie Coleman was the first black woman to earn a pilot's license. Because flying schools in the United States denied her entry, she taught herself French and moved to France, earning her license from France's well-known Caudron Brother's School of Aviation in just seven months. Coleman specialized in stunt flying and parachuting, earning a living barnstorming and performing aerial tricks. She remains a pioneer of women in the field of aviation.





Soroptimist Int'l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization of nearly 80,000 members in over 3,000 clubs in 130 countries and territories who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Our Mission: "Soroptimists transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities."

- Soroptimist International has numerous United Nations representatives that work side-by-side with UN ambassadors to improve conditions for women and girls around the world on several UN councils and committees
- **Soroptimist Int'l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River** was chartered in 2009 and has helped empower and encourage over **3,500** women and girls through projects like:
 - Offering Dream It Be It Career and Life Preparation workshops, mentoring opportunities and Career Panel Q&A sessions for secondary school-age students
 - Providing Comfort Kits to domestic violence survivors and Comfort Kid Kits to their children
 - Purchasing new bras for homeless teen girls to help improve their self-esteem and confidence so they can perform better in school
 - Purchased heating pads for Cordova High and Kinney High to help relieve menstrual cramp pain so they can return to class versus being sent home, which means they're not in school learning.
 - Awarding Live Your Dream college scholarships to head of household women who returned to school to improve their employment situation to be an even better provider for their family
 - Funding the purchase of forty solar cookers for families escaping genocide in the Sudan.
 - Sewing over 750 dresses for the Dress A Girl Around the World program. A girl wearing a nice new dress will not be a target for traffickers to kidnap.
- **Soroptimist Int'l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River** has earned or been recognized with numerous awards:
 - Received the Key to the City of Rancho Cordova
 - Received US Congressional Certificate of Recognition from Congressman Ami Bera
 - Received a Proclamation from the City of Rancho Cordova for the club's work raising awareness about Trafficking
 - Received a Proclamation from the City of Rancho Cordova honoring Women's History Month for the club's projects that empower and educate women and girls in the community
 - Received the Distinguished Service to Youth award from the Cordova Community Council
 - Received a Certificate of Recognition from California State Assemblyman Ken Cooley
 - Received a Certificate of Recognition from California State Senator Jim Nielsen
 - Received a Certificate of Recognition from Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
 - Received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Folsom Cordova Unified School District
- **Soroptimist Int'l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River** is a member of:
 - Cordova Community Council
 - Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce
- **Soroptimist Int'l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River** provides leadership to Project 680, the organization that performs collection and donation drives benefitting homeless and at-risk students in Folsom Cordova USD.