



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



December 2022 Her Story ENewsletter American Women Featured on 2023 Quarters



The five American women to be introduced in 2023 as part of the American Women Quarters Program include Bessie Coleman, Edith Kanaka'ole, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jovita Idar and Maria Tallchief. In announcing that Edith Kanaka'ole would be on a quarter, the U.S. Mint said "Her mo'olelo, or stories, served to rescue aspects of Hawaiian history, customs and traditions that were disappearing due to the cultural bigotry of the time." She has been recognized as "the preeminent practitioner of modern Hawaiian culture and language." Edith Kanaka'ole fought for the preservation of Hawaiian language and culture and established educational programs at both Hawai'i Community College and the University of Hawai'i that included ethnobotany, Polynesian history, genealogy, and Hawaiian chant and mythology.



Bessie Coleman is another honoree. In 1921, aviatrix and civil rights advocate Coleman became the first U.S. woman and first African American to win an international pilot's license. The tenth of thirteen children, she became a beautician in Chicago until at age 27, she decided that she would become a flier. Unable to find anyone in the U.S. who would teach her to fly, she enrolled in aviation school in France and received her pilot's license in 1921. Upon returning to the U.S., she embarked on a career in entertainment, as a pilot.

Coleman broke gender barriers and racial barriers through her exhibition flying and the publicity that she generated. She dreamed of an aviation school for Black pilots; regrettably this did not happen until after her accidental death in 1926. Coleman's honors include the First Flight Society; she has also been inducted

into the National Women's Hall of Fame and featured on a U.S. postage stamp.



Honoree and former First Lady **Eleanor Roosevelt** set many new precedents for the position of First Lady. She broke with tradition in 1933 by holding her own White House press conferences and allowing only women reporters. During her husband's presidency, she also wrote newspaper columns, advocated for human rights, and worked on children's and women's issues. After his death, she served as a delegate to the United Nations. She regarded the writing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as her greatest achievement.

Throughout her long life, Roosevelt continued a public service career by courageously speaking and writing, both in the United States and abroad. Her work dealt with many social issues and concerns; her constant efforts to improve the lot of the underprivileged made her one of the most loved--and for some years, one of the most revered women of her generation. She was held in esteem around the world. Among her many quotable comments, she said "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you stop to look fear in the face. . . . You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

Bessie Coleman and Eleanor Roosevelt are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Women's accomplishments continue to inspire and encourage us. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen

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