

NEWS RELEASE

# Empowering Women in the Skies

8/19/2022

American Airlines Flight Operated by an All-Black Female Crew in Honor of Bessie Coleman

American Airlines hosted the **Bessie Coleman Aviation All-Stars tour** to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Black woman to earn a pilot's license in 1921. She bravely broke down barriers within the world of aviation and paved the path for many to follow.

To honor her legacy, American hosted Gigi Coleman, Bessie's great niece, on a flight from Dallas-Fort Worth to Phoenix. The flight was operated by an all-Black Female crew — from the pilots and Flight Attendants to the Cargo team members and the aviation maintenance technician.



American is being intentional in its efforts to diversify the flight deck. Black women have been notably underrepresented in the aviation industry, especially as pilots, representing less than 1% in the commercial airline industry. Through the **American Airlines Cadet Academy**, the airline is committed to expanding awareness of and increasing accessibility to the pilot career within diverse communities.

The historic flight crew  
**Beth Powell**

**Maya Matthews**

**Tracy Brown**

Pilot, Captain 737-3

**Charlene Shortte**  
Pilot, First Officer 737-3

**Cheryl Gaymon**  
Flight Attendant

**Mary Roberson**  
Flight Attendant

**Vanessa Bennett**  
Flight Attendant

**Breana James**  
Flight Attendant

**Sharron Brooks**  
Crew Chief

**Nicole White**  
Crew Chief

Fleet Service Agent

**Natasha Williams**  
Fleet Service Agent

**Alisha Bates**  
Fleet Service Agent

**Patricia Milfort**  
MOD, Customer Operations

**Arlene Law**  
Customer Service Coordinator

**Lynette Daniels Moody**  
Customer Service Coordinator

**Lillie Hayes**  
Customer Service Coordinator

**Kacy Stevenson**  
Customer Service Coordinator

Customer Service Agent

**Muju Abdul-Qadir**  
IAM Control Center Coordinator

**Pamela Calton**  
TWU Aviation Maintenance Technician

**Audrey Van Hook**  
TWU Crew Chief Ramp

**Crystal Tochi McDaniel**  
Duty Manager, Cargo Services

**Sandra Butler**  
TWU Crew Chief Ramp

**Jessika Mejia**  
Premium Customer Services Rep

**Veronda Butler**  
Sr. Manager, Premium Guest Services  
Operations

## About American Airlines Group

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