Josephine Baker
Civil Rights Activist
June 3, 1906 to April 12, 1975

The American-born French entertainer and civil rights activist was unabashed by conservative mores of the time and became an international symbol of Black culture.

* Did you know?

- Despite marrying several different men, Baker also had several relationships with women, including blues singer Clara Smith.
- To escape racism, discrimination, and segregation, Baker left the United States in 1925 for Paris, France. There, she became one of the most famous women in Europe.
- After Hitler conquered France during World War II, Baker worked as a spy, helping French and American resistance to the occupying Nazi regime.

*A resource created by the IEA LGBTQ+ Committee*