



Margaret Hamilton

(b. 1936)

Hamilton is best known for leading the NASA division that wrote key software for the Apollo 11 lunar mission in 1969. She is also one of the people credited with coining the term “software engineering.” While working at MIT, she taught herself programming to develop weather prediction software. Later she became the director of the software engineering division at the Draper Lab, and then NASA hired her. She led the team of over

100 mathematicians, programmers, and engineers that wrote the software for the Apollo 11 command module. She won the Augusta Ada Lovelace Award (1989), the NASA Exceptional Space Act Award (2003), and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2016).

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