

Grace Hopper (1906—1992)

Grace Hopper was born in New York City (1906). She earned BA degrees in mathematics and physics from Vassar College (1928) and a PhD in mathematics from Yale University (1934). She joined the U.S. Navy Reserve (1943), where she worked on precursors to computers. In 1949, she started work for computer corporations where she helped to design early compilers such as UNIVAC I and the ubiquitous computer language COBOL

(1959). Hopper retired from the Navy Reserve at the rank of commander (1966), was recalled, and later retired as a rear admiral (1986). Hopper was elected a fellow of IEEE (1962), awarded the National Medal of Technology (1991), and posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2016).

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