Maria Camila Pinzón Paredes.
Tecnólogo en análisis y desarrollo de software
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Margaret Hamilton

Margaret Hamilton is an American software developer, and mathematical born in 1936.

She is specially recognized by the Apolo 11 program, where she leaded the mission to the success, due that she did the complete error detection in the code and introduced code to prioritize some functions in the software to prevent overloads.

She studied mathematics in the university of Michigan and Earlham College. Then she wanted to keep studying, but she had to work as math and French teacher while her husband was finishing his career.

Eventually, she moved to Boston, where she studied Abstract Math in Brandeis University.

At the age of 24, her first professional work was in MIT at the meteorological department, where she had to develop software for predict the weather. In these years (‘60s), the computers and the programming languages were just beginning to appear, so she had to learn a lot of things by herself.

Then, in the MIT Lincoln Lab she worked writing code for a project used by the Us air force. The project was the AN/FSQ-7, a prototype that searched for unfriendly aircrafts. At this time, Margaret was able to code in many languages, that was a ability which brought a lot of important jobs along her life.

Due to the success of the project, Margaret was transferred soon to Apolo Program, where she was the team leader of the Command Module and Lunar Module; two essential software modules to success the landing on the moon.

Later, she founded her own enterprises: High Order Software and Hamilton Technologies.

She has received many recognition awards through her life; as the Augusta ADA Lovelace Award by the Association for women in computing, the Exceptional Space Act Award given by the NASA, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Intrepid Lifetime Achievement Award.

She left a contributive legacy, she wrote many books and publications about software, she created the “Software Engineering” term (although in the ‘60s the term was not taken seriously), and now, she inspires a lot of women to study and learn about coding and programming, a world filled by men.

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