Women

In Technology

"Amazing" Grace Hopper

- 1928 Bachelor's & Master's in Math - Vassar
- 1934 Ph.D. in Math - Yale
- 1943 Sworn into Navy Reserve "WAVES" - Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Svc
- 1944 One of first programmers of the Mark I computer as a Lieutenant JG

In 1949, when describing her dream of a programming language based on English words, she was told she couldn't do it because "computers didn't understand English." Three years later, she had developed the world's first compiler. "Nobody believed it," she said, "they told me computers could only do arithmetic."

In 1983, after retiring and being recalled to active duty twice, Grace Hopper was promoted to the rank of Commodore (later renamed Rear Admiral). She finally retired in 1986 after a 42-year career. "The most important thing I've accomplished," she said before her death in 1992, "other than building the compiler, is training young people. They come to me and say 'Do you think we can do this?' I say, 'TRY IT.'"

What can you do with technology that nobody thinks can be done?