



GRACE HOPPER

COMPUTER SCIENTIST, US NAVY REAR ADMIRAL

As a child, Hopper loved taking apart household goods and putting them back together again. Given her love of problem-solving, no one was surprised when she earned her Masters and PhD in mathematics from Yale, and then became a professor at Vassar. Eventually, Hopper resigned her position to join the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service), where she worked on the Mark 1 - an early prototype of the very first electronic computer. Hopper wrote the 500-page manual that outlined the fundamental operating principles of the Mark 1. Additionally, while working on the Mark I, Hopper coined the word "bug" (apparently after a moth found its way into her computer) to describe a computer malfunction!

