

Hannah Rachel Nelson

Computer Scientist & United States Navy Rear Admiral

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✉ FLOW-MATIC@cobol 🌐 [hopper](https://www.hopper.org) 📄 [wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace_Hopper](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace_Hopper) | Updated: September 7, 2018

EDUCATION

Yale University, Ph.D. Mathematics	1934
Yale University, M.S. Mathematics	1930
Vassar College, B.S. Mathematics & Physics	1928

EMPLOYMENT

United States Naval Reserve:

Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School	1943–1944
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Bureau of Ships Computation Project (Harvard):

Research Fellow	1945–1949	Lieutenant, Jr Grade	1944
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Eckert–Mauchly Computer Corporation:

Senior Mathematician	1949—1967
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Navy Programming Languages Group, Navy Office of Information Systems Planning:

Director (and promoted to Captain)	1967–1977
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TEACHING

Associate Professor, Mathematics, Vassar	1931–1941
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Teach students about math, began career in programming and largely developed design and implementation of a computer compiler.

Director, Navy Programming Languages Group	1967–1977
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She developed validation software for COBOL and its compiler as part of a COBOL standardization program for the entire Navy. Hopper advocated for the Defense Department to replace large, centralized systems with networks of small, distributed computers. Any user on any computer node could access common databases located on the network. She developed the implementation of standards for testing computer systems and components, most significantly for early programming languages such as FORTRAN and COBOL. The Navy tests for conformance to these standards led to significant convergence among the programming language dialects of the major computer vendors. In the 1980s, these tests (and their official administration) were assumed by the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), known today as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grace_Hopper)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

G. M. Hopper and O. Ore. 1934. "New types of irreducibility criteria." Bull. Amer. Math. Soc. 40 (216).

Books

Beyer, Kurt W. 2009. *Grace Hopper and the Invention of the Information Age*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press. ISBN 978-0-262-01310-9.

Williams, Kathleen Broome. 2004. *Grace Hopper: Admiral of the Cyber Sea* (1st ed.). Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press. ISBN 978-1-55750-952-9.

PUBLIC MEDIA

“Nano-seconds” lecture by Grace Hopper. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEpsKnWZrJ8>

AWARDS

1964 *Society of Women Engineers Achievement Award*, the Society’s highest honor, “In recognition of her significant contributions to the burgeoning computer industry as an engineering manager and originator of automatic programming systems.”

1969 *Data Processing Management Association Man of the Year* (now called the Distinguished Information Sciences Award)

1973 *Distinguished Fellow of the British Computer Society*. First American and the first woman of any nationality to be given award.

1982 *American Association of University Women Achievement Award*

1987 *Computer History Museum Fellow Award Recipient* First to receive this award, for contributions to the development of programming languages, for standardization efforts, and for lifelong naval service.

1991: *National Medal of Technology*

1996: *USS Hopper (DDG-70) was launched*. Nicknamed Amazing Grace, it is on a very short list of U.S. military vessels named after women.

2009: The Department of Energy’s National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center named its flagship system “Hopper”

2016: Posthumously awarded a *Presidential Medal of Freedom* for her accomplishments in the field of computer science