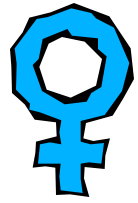


# GENDER ISSUES



Grace Hopper was born on December 9, 1906 in New York City. Hopper was great granddaughter to Alexander Russell who was a rear admiral in the United States Navy. This was Hopper's role model and personnel hero. It's no wonder Grace spent the majority of her life dedicated to the Navy. She was the granddaughter of a civil engineer, John Van Horne, who gave Hopper her first experiences with angles, curves, and angles. Her father, Walter Fletcher Murray, was an insurance broker. Her mother, Mary Campbell Horne Murray, actually had special arrangements made so that she could study geometry. At that point in time, women were not allowed to study algebra or trigonometry. It was society's opinion that women only needed to know basic mathematical skills in order to use it on household accounts and family finances. Grace had a particular love for gadgets; she was known to take apart household clocks to find out how they worked. Her parents instilled the ambition and drive that made Grace the woman she was. Her father wanted his daughters to have the same opportunities that her brother did.

Grace only had a few gender obstacles to overcome. Her only significant gender conflict was when she tried to enter the Navy. The reason she was even considered for the Navy was because she was a mathematics professor. The fact that she was one of only a few women in the field of computer science never bothered her, nor seemed to affect her. Hopper did not seem to experience any problems in her education either. Grace was an extremely lucky woman and her accomplishments and contributions will always be remembered.