

Minor Contributions

Although her greatest contribution to computer science was GPS, she also was the project manager of Seasat, an experimental U.S. ocean surveillance satellite, made to provide data on a wide range of oceanographic conditions and features.



Gladys West

The creator of
10/27/1930 – Today (age 94)

Early Life

Gladys West was born in rural Virginia, where her parents owned a small farm in a region populated mostly by sharecroppers. When she was young, she helped her parents harvest crops.



Today, GPS is used in everything from your laptop or PC to your smartwatch!

Major Contribution

Gladys' most memorable contribution to computer science was helping to develop GPS, a system to help a device make accurate calculations of any location on Earth.

Academic Events

Gladys was one of two students at her high school to receive full scholarships to Virginia, and she chose to study mathematics, which at the time was mostly studied by men. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, and later went back to complete a Master of Mathematics degree.

Sources

[Britannica](#)

[Defense.gov](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

