EVELYN BOYD GRANVILLE

MAY 1, 1924—JUNE 27, 2023



EARLY LIFE

- Loved school and mathematics from an early age.
- After her parents separated, she was raised by her mother and her mother's sister.
- Born in Washington D.C when the city was segregated and went to one of three Black high schools in the area.
- She liked going to the museums and libraries and learning there.





FACING ADVERSITY

- Applied to a teaching job soon after gaining her PhD but was denied because of her race and gender.
- While doing her post-doctorate at New York University's Institute of Mathematics and Science, she faced housing discrimination and was unable to find an apartment in New York.
- She applied to women's colleges Smith and Mount Holyoke. They both accepted her, but did not provide any financial aid.



EDUCATION

- At first she was going to teach French, but was inspired by mathematics and astronomy.
- Graduated summa cum laude after graduating from Smith college in 1945.
- During her years at Yale, she had a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship twice, and during her final year, an Atomic Energy Commission Predoctoral Fellowship.
- She is the second Black woman to receive a PhD in mathematics.





CONTRIBUTIONS

- After retiring, she advocated STEM education, and traveled nation-wide to speak about the importance of STEM education.
- She was a contractor for NASA. She designed computer software that would analyze satellite orbits in project mercury missions, and she worked on NASA's Apollo program.
- Taught math and computer programming at Fisk University and California State University, Los Angeles.
- Taught elementary and eighth-grade students math and computer basics in Texas.