

# Paige Pendleton Celebrates 55 Years of Federal Service

Paige Pendleton, Jr., has been part of GPO's Plant Operations for more than five decades. After two years with the U.S. Army as a medically-trained combat soldier, Pendleton joined the GPO in June 1966 as a Skilled Laborer in the Electrical Section.

Pendleton was no stranger to GPO, since he's a second-generation family member after his father, also Paige, worked for GPO as a Skilled Laborer from 1943 until 1952.

"In the 1960's there were so many employees at GPO. Every time you turned around there was someone right there...people

everywhere, I immediately realized that GPO was a great place to work, and I could have a long career here," says Pendleton.

In the early days, when Pendleton was still living in Georgetown, he commuted to and from GPO daily on his bicycle. He owned many different bikes since they were his transportation to GPO.

On day one, Pendleton reported for work at GPO in the Engineering Division, Electrical Section as a Conveyor Operator. He was tasked with sending GPO's mail to the main Post Office on Massachusetts Avenue

via the conveyor belt from GPO's basement and through the underground tunnel system. "It was exciting to send our mail on its 3.5 minute trek from GPO to the main Post Office each day," says Pendleton.

Pendleton's entire career has been spent working on first shift with the exception of a year on second shift. Pendleton also spent three years, 2007–2010, working in Building D on Passports.

"I embraced the opportunity, and was honored to work on the production of passports," says Pendleton. "The passport work is fast-paced and exciting. I'm proud to have taken part in performing this critical and important work."

His duties included removing passports from the machinery and screening them for mistakes. Once sorted, the passports were grouped five at a time into stacks of 15 for packing and shipping.

Currently, you can find

Pendleton on the 3rd or 4th floors in Bindery working on hearings in the Record Room, *The Congressional Record*, *The Federal Register*, *The Code of Federal Regulations*, and countless other specialty printings like the *Trafficking in Persons Report* and the *President's Budget*. He also shrink wraps books prior to shipping them out.

Having worked on just about every Presidential Budget for more than 50 years, he has definitely noticed some changes.

"We are able to work more efficiently with new digital equipment and technology," says Pendleton. "The whole process used to take weeks. It only takes us a few days in 2019."

He says he can recall seeing himself and fellow employees on TV and in the newspaper when the media covered the release of the President's Budget.

"It's a great honor to work on the President's budget, and exciting to see the



**Federal budget copies**  
A Government Printing Office employee stacks copies of the fiscal 1996 federal budget yesterday in Washington, D.C. Clinton will present the budget to Congress next week.



Paige Pendleton gathering the U.S. Code before the covers were added.



Standing left to right: Morris Smith, Quintin Mozie, Sabrina Applewhite, and Joseph Marble.  
Sitting left to right: Celestine Payne, Paige Pendleton, Christina McGrier, and Nancy Harris.

media coverage of the Public Printer’s presentation of the finished books to the OMB Director,” says Pendleton. “It’s great to see GPO featured for its important work in the national media.”

Employees can be treated to Pendleton’s musical talents during lunchtime. He can be found playing a few tunes on the piano in Harding Hall. He learned to play piano as a teen and has enjoyed it ever since.

“Music helps you through life,” says Pendleton.

Pendleton keeps his fellow employees entertained with his famous quotes and push up challenges during breaks. He is very well liked by his coworkers because he is always encouraging others and is kind, dedicated and hardworking.

“He is very inspirational, honest, hardworking and helpful. It’s a delight to hear him sing and play the piano,”

said Christina McGrier.

“The best part of working at the GPO has been my wonderful bosses. I have had about eight bosses since I started working here, and they are all like family to me.”

Pendleton remembers the 1968 riots while living in Southeast DC and working at the GPO.

“It was a really challenging time,” he says.

President Johnson called up the National Guard to control the city and enforce a 10:00 p.m. curfew. Much of H and 14th Streets were on fire, as were many businesses. He says it was a challenge to make it to work on time because of all of the unrest and destruction in the city. Many more employees were reporting to work late, so the line for late passes was unusually long. However, he says that once employees were inside the

GPO buildings, they felt safe because of the protection of our GPO Police force.

Pendleton seems to have seen it all—at least a dozen Public Printers/Directors, the ringing bells throughout the buildings, required late/tardy passes, and the transition from print to digital.

Over his more than five-decades of service here at the GPO, he has developed a lifelong fascination with Hollywood and celebrities. He talks excitedly about seeing the famous trench coat of Peter Falk, best known as TV’s Colombo, in October of 1979 when Warner Brothers crews set up several film scenes on GPO’s roof for views of the U.S. Capitol as part of the movie, *The In-Law’s*.

“We were allowed to view the filming during our lunch breaks which was pretty cool,” says Pendleton.

Another one of his

fondest brushes with Hollywood was serving as an extra in the 1973 movie *Scorpio* starring Burt Lancaster that was filmed at the National Airport.

When asked if he has any advice for new employees, Pendleton says, “Always smile, be quiet, speak when spoken to, don’t be rowdy, be humble, and be nice.”

As for his future at GPO, Paige has no plans of slowing down.

“I have no plans on retiring and plan to just keeping moving on,” he says.

*Editor’s Note: This is the first in a series of articles focused on employees with 40+ years of Federal service. We look forward to sharing their GPO experience with you.*

- Michelle R. Overstreet