



Mark Chandler's story is one of dedication and a deep connection to his musical roots. Having been with the GPO for nearly four decades, Chandler's journey began in 1986 and has been marked by growth, both personally and professionally.

## A LONG AND STEADY CAREER AT GPO

Chandler's time at GPO spans 39 years, starting in Laurel where he worked for five years, before moving to GPO's main building. As a Work Leader in Central Receiving for the past 20 years, Chandler's role is pivotal in managing operations within GPO's receiving department. His initial job in Laurel involved retail distribution. From there, he contributed to shipping operations and as his career progressed, he moved on to Central Receiving.

Originally from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Chandler moved to Baltimore and started looking into Government jobs.

"Ironically, I ended up taking the Civil Service Test after taking my cousin to his appointment," said Chandler. "At that time, you didn't have to have an appointment to take the Civil Service Test."

This led to an unexpected phone call from Human Capital Specialist Brenda Squirrell, a pivotal moment in his career.

"I hadn't even filled out a job application," says Chandler. "It was Ms. Squirrell who encouraged me to come in and apply anyway. I did and, ultimately, that landed me the supply clerk position in Laurel."

Chandler's military background also shaped his life. Serving in the Army National Guard from 1982 to 1988, he trained as a Motor Vehicle Transporter. During that time, he was fortunate to serve together with his brother in the same battalion.

After serving in the Army National Guard, Chandler had to find a new unit. He then joined the Military Police.

## A PASSION FOR MUSIC

While Chandler's work at GPO has been a significant part of his life as well as his military career, music has been his constant companion since childhood and at the Agency, where many teammates often hear him sing during the holidays and at special events. Raised in a household filled with musical influence, he was surrounded by the sounds of his father's quartet and his mother's solo performances.

"Singing was something that I always loved," said Chandler. "Even as the youngest of six siblings, I often found myself joining in and taking the lead in musical performances."

Chandler's music career has also seen notable moments. He recently signed with Boom Brothers Music, a development he calls a miracle, thanks to a cousin in California who introduced him to key industry people. His first single, "Don't Lean," was a product of collaboration, with the song's upbeat tone standing out in the music world. "Don't Lean" released in 2023 and was followed by *My Hope* in 2024 and then a Christmas album, which

# HARMONY OF SERVICE

## *A Journey of Service and a Passion for Music*



**Top:** U.S. Army Veteran and GPO Teammate Mark Chandler sings "America The Beautiful" at the 2024 Veterans Day Ceremony held in Harding Hall.

**Above:** Human Capital Specialist Brenda Squirrell encouraged Mark Chandler to apply for a job at GPO.



marked his full-length release. Chandler is also working on new music with artist Nora Jean Bell, known for her collaborations with Stevie Wonder.

Chandler's music journey isn't just about singing—it's about exploring and creating. He even dabbles in songwriting. When his time for music came, everything fell into place without struggle. His belief in the power of timing is reflected in his quote, "In God's own time, my change will come."

## MEMORABLE MOMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

One of Chandler's most cherished memories took place in the '90s at the Cooks Convention Center in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had the honor of singing alongside gospel legends like Mattie Moss Clark and Dorinda Clark-Cole. This spontaneous performance of "Holy Spirit" by gospel artist Richard Smallwood remains one of his most unforgettable experiences.

Now, as he reflects on his life and career, Chandler finds that "your latter will be greater," reminding us that our most fulfilling experiences can come at any point in life. His journey continues, with more music and opportunities ahead. As he collaborates with other artists and shares his voice in new spaces, it's clear that Chandler's time in the spotlight is only just beginning.



**Top:** GPO Work Leader Mark Chandler manages operations in Central Receiving.

**Above:** Recording Artist and GPO Teammate Mark Chandler is sharing his voice in new spaces.