



Sheriff Gary Painter

End of Watch:
May 26, 2019

We are deeply saddened at the passing of Sheriff Gary Painter of Midland County Sheriff's Office, Midland, Texas. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sheriff Painter's family, Midland County Sheriff's Office, and the citizens of Midland County. Sheriff Painter is survived by his wife, Patsy, his five children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Gary always had a servant's heart and started his work career by serving his country in the Marine Corps. He served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Ribbon with six devices, the Presidential Unit Commendation, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. Gary left the Marine Corps with the rank of Sergeant. However, Gary being who he is, his service didn't stop when leaving the Marine Corps.

Gary began his career in law enforcement with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a Highway Patrolman. In 1982 Gary began working for Midland County Sheriff's Office and in 1985 ran for the Office of Sheriff and has held that Office ever since.

Sheriff Painter has been an active member of Western States Sheriff's Association for many years. He has served on different committees and was a great asset to the organization by providing his expertise, dedication, and direction when working through difficult issues with our other law enforcement partners. In 2017 he was elected by his peers to the Board of Directors of Western States Sheriffs' Association, and during our March 2019 WSSA Conference, Gary was sworn in as our President.

Gary has lived a life of service to God, family, country, county, community and citizens. We have all lost a great friend and Sheriff. He will forever be remembered and missed.