

**Jerry Patterson**  
Commissioner  
Texas General Land Office

On November 5, 2002 Jerry Patterson was elected to become the 27th Commissioner of the General Land Office. He has already pledged to seek re-election to the office in 2006.

Born in Houston, Texas on November 15, 1946 Jerry Patterson served his country as a U.S. Marine for over twenty years and as a state senator for six. As senator from District 11, Patterson's major legislative successes included passage of the historic concealed handgun law, a constitutional amendment allowing home equity lending, the state coastal management plan and the creation of the Texas State Veterans Home Program. He earned a reputation as a no-nonsense but determined voice for individual freedom and constitutional rights. He also worked diligently to honor his fellow veterans.

Patterson graduated Texas A&M, Class of 1969 and received his commission in the United States Marine Corps. In 1972 he volunteered for duty in Vietnam. He was later designated as a Naval Flight Officer at Pensacola, Florida and served in Marine fighter squadrons until his retirement from the Marine Corps Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1993.

Jerry and his wife Jennifer reside in Austin. His daughter Emily currently attends South Texas College of Law and lives in Houston. His son Travis is a graduate of Texas A&M, where he was commissioned as a Marine Lieutenant. He now serves on active duty as a U.S. Marine attack helicopter pilot.