



## 12<sup>th</sup> *Moonlight in the Gardens* honors Judge Loyd & Thetis Neal, October 12

*Moonlight in the Gardens*, South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center's 12<sup>th</sup> annual signature fundraiser, presented for the fifth year by CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery, begins at 5:30 p.m., Friday, October 12, at the Solomon P. Ortiz International Center, 402 Harbor Drive. Honored at the event will be **Nueces County Judge Loyd Neal**, and wife **Thetis Neal**.

Judge Neal's public service career is one of the most significant in Corpus Christi. His 30-year Military career and 40 years in the corporate world combine with numerous community and public service leadership positions both appointed and elected—notably Chair of South Texas Military Task Force, three gubernatorial appointments, four terms as Mayor of Corpus Christi, three as Nueces County Judge—plus numerous honors, awards and board positions. At Texas A&M University, he was named a *Distinguished Alumnus* in 1992 for service to his City, State and Country; and inducted into the *Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor*, March, 2018.

Event co-chairs are Botanical Gardens Executive Board member **Dr. Mary Jane Garza**, and CITGO's Government & Public Affairs Manager **Christina Cisneros-Guzman**. The 2018 event, benefiting Botanical Gardens environmental education and conservation programs, stays true to its casual format and interplanetary travel theme, with constant entertainment inside and outside the venue, including golden features Vulcan Valet, Starlight and Grand Galaxy auctions, Stellar Spirits, Martian Music Bar, Pictures with Parrots, Aphrodite's Patio Party, Wine Pull, Best Steak on the Planet, and Nep-Tunes by pop and rock favorite *Flashback*.

*Moonlight in the Gardens* sponsorships now are being sold, from \$1500 to \$10,000. Contact Scott Simmonds, Development Director, [scotts@stxbot.org](mailto:scotts@stxbot.org); or Michael Womack, Executive Director, [wmwomack@stxbot.org](mailto:wmwomack@stxbot.org), 361-852-2100.