SAVE THE DATE!
Oct. 12, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

Dedication and formal naming of CAVALETTO HOUSE at SIU’s Touch of Nature

Honoring SIU’s own
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN CAVALETTO

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
TOUCH OF NATURE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
Friday, October 12, 2018
Dedication 10:30 a.m., with lunch to follow

Please join Southern Illinois University and Touch of Nature Environmental Center for the formal naming of its student intern house in honor of:

**Illinois State Representative John D. Cavaletto**

John’s relationship with Touch of Nature began in 1954, when he attended a summer camp at Little Grassy. The next two years, he and his future wife, Connie, became counselors at Camp Little Giant, where they worked with Down syndrome individuals and with children and young adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.

John earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees at SIU. Along with Dr. William Freeberg (head of the SIU Department of Recreation), John worked for the Kennedy Foundation and Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver to replicate these camps across the State of Illinois. Dr. Freeberg selected John as director of the camps. These camps led to the creation of Special Olympics here in Southern Illinois. In April at Touch of Nature, we marked the 50th Anniversary of the start of Special Olympics.

As a teacher and coach, John went on to start summer camps at schools where he taught, always with Connie working by his side. After his years of teaching and coaching, John found another way to help our region and state – as a state legislator. As retirement from the Illinois House of Representatives becomes a reality, John has come home to Little Grassy and is helping support the continuing efforts at Touch of Nature.

Naming the intern house Cavaletto House brings everything back to where it started. John spent a dozen years helping people shine while showcasing their abilities, regardless of their disabilities. Come on down to the woods of Southern Illinois and help us honor a dedicated man.