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## **Nancy, Murray Duggins honored by Boy Scouts**

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On a recent Monday morning, Nancy Duggins received a call she didn't expect.

"Jim Ammons called and asked if we'd accept the honor," she said.

The honor she spoke of is given during the Cumberland County Distinguished Citizen Dinner, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions toward the betterment of the county. The event also serves as the major annual fundraiser for the Boy Scouts of America.

"At first, I thought (Ammons) had the wrong number," Nancy Duggins said, laughing.

She and her husband, Murray Duggins, were honored Wednesday evening.

Their contributions to Cumberland County and their love for each other during their 50-year marriage were celebrated by friends and family, including Murray Duggins' brother, Jim Duggins, and his sister-in-law, Clara, both of Greensboro.

"It feels great to honor them," Jim Duggins said. "They deserve it."

Murray Duggins changed his life in October 1972 when he decided to enter the real estate industry.

He became president of United Realty in 1975 and bought the company in 1986. Later, he sold the company to a good friend, Ralph Huff, who said Murray Duggins always gave him sage advice and guidance in his own career.

Murray Duggins then expanded his career into construction, rental management, daycares and other aspects of real estate.

He's been an active member of many community groups, including serving on the board at Methodist University, chairman of the board of trustees at Fayetteville Academy and president of the Exchange Club, among others.

Nancy Duggins also is a member of many community groups and is now a Catechism teacher at Highland Presbyterian Church. She also serves on the board of directors of Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation.

Together, friends say they're unstoppable.

"We don't always honor a couple," said Ammons, the senior resident Superior Court judge. "But you can't say one name without the other."

Ammons described the couple as having a "great romance."

"They are simply great partners," he said, explaining the two would have been successful separately but have done extraordinary things as a couple.

Past recipients of the award include Ron and Sharon Matthews, Tom Costello, Don Price, retired Gen. Dan McNeill, Bo Thorp, Ernie Johnson, Lee Warren and Wes Jones.