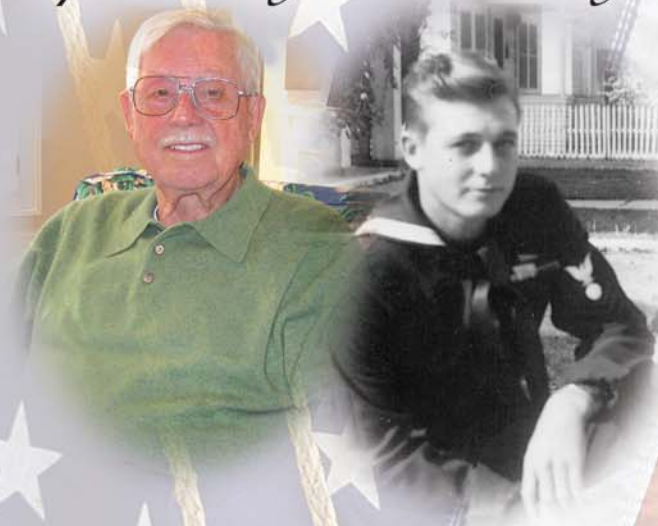


# HOMETOWN HEROES...

## *A Salute to the Veterans of Forsyth County*



### Saluting Doug Huggins ...

While everyone in America soon heard of the tragic events of Dec. 7, 1941, over the radio waves as they unfolded, some were eye witnesses to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Doug Huggins was one of them.

"Nobody could believe it," said the 87-year-old at his Forsyth County home recently. "Chaos was raining down."

Huggins, who had joined the Navy in November a year before on his 18th birthday, was a gunnery fire controlman on board the U.S.S. St. Louis. He said the ship was docked for some maintenance the week of the attack. He had just eaten breakfast and was getting ready to go meet a friend serving on the U.S.S. Arizona for church and later to go to the recreation center when the attack began. His friend was one the first 900 men to die that day onboard the Arizona, the first ship Japan bombed. After almost two hours of attack, Huggins' ship was able to flee the harbor in pursuit of the Japanese.

Huggins served in the Navy for six years, after earning the rank of Electrician Mate 1st Class.

He and his wife of 67 years, Ruth, moved to the Sandy Springs area in 1964 and to Forsyth County in 1989. They have two children, two grandchildren and will soon welcome their first great grandchild.

As a survivor of one of America's most significant historical events and for his dedication to country and family, we salute Doug Huggins as a true...

**"Hometown Hero."**



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