

# SENIOR LIFE



NEWS MAGAZINE

April/May 2014



# Benny Hughes: Sharing a Legacy of Scottish Heritage

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For members of the Oklahoma Scottish Pipes and Drums, the band is a family and drum major Benny Hughes is their patriarch. This native of Scotland's love for sharing Scottish culture has spanned decades and reached countless people, making him a veritable cornerstone in the foundation of Scottish culture in our state.

Benny, along with his wife, Ina, and their two sons, Benny and Tommy, moved from Scotland to Oklahoma by way of Canada in the late fifties. His love for his homeland and culture took root in Oklahoma soil and he became the drum major for the Highlanders of Oklahoma City in its early years, continuing for forty years before helping to form the OSPD in 1998. He and Ina also taught Scottish Country and Folk dancing. Not content with just sharing a love for Scottish music and dance, Benny also became one of the state's first certified soccer referees in the seventies and even refereed an exhibition game in Tulsa in which the all-time great soccer player Pele participated.

Today, Benny carries a bit of history with him whenever the OSPD performs in the form of four combat medals earned during World War II in the 6th Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, Infantry Unit in the British Army. He proudly wears these during the band's many performances, ranging from parades and lively pub appearances to graduation ceremonies and everything in between.

Through their many performances and the positive teaching atmosphere created for new and seasoned pipers alike, members of OSPD preserve and perpetuate Scottish and Celtic customs and culture. For information about the band, its current schedule, or pipe classes, please visit [okscots.com](http://okscots.com).

