

**THE 61st ANNUAL COMET
RELAYS ARE DEDICATED TO:**

Sherrill M. “Cookie” McLoda



There are always special people in a community who work tirelessly in the background to support programs, people who support schools, community outreach, and student programs and who advocate for others. We have had a special person working behind the scenes all over the communities of Amherst and Lorain County, improving programs and making things happen. Sherrill M. "Cookie" McLoda is one of those people who are always working on projects to improve things for others. Not many people are aware of all of the things she has been a part of. She has been an integral support for the Amherst Track program, without recognition, for many years. That is why we want to celebrate and thank Cookie by dedicating this year's Comet Relays to her.

Ms. McLoda joined the Parsons Insurance Agency in January 1964 as a CSR. Cookie soon became a licensed property, casualty, life and health agent and took over as manager of the office. She later became a stockholder and is now the majority owner along with partner Mike Lotko. Cookie lives in Amherst, is very active in the community, in civic affairs and local politics. She serves as chairman of the Lorain County Metro Parks Board of Directors. She is active in the Amherst Garden Club, Friends of the Amherst Public Library, and the Lorain County Historical Society. Cookie served as the City of Amherst Safety Service Director for eight years, the Lorain County Children's Services Board for sixteen years, Common Ground Board for seven years, and is presently on the EMH Regional Healthcare Board of Trustees. She is a graduate of Leadership Lorain County, was inducted into the Amherst Schools Gallery of Success in 1992, and was named one of the Top 20 Women Business Owners of NE Ohio in 1995. Cookie served on the Ohio Professional Insurance Agents Board of Directors from 1975 to 1982. She has been an insurance instructor and author of nationally published insurance articles.

She was the caregiver and close companion to our own Coach Dick Cooley, caring for him in his later years, donated for materials for the track team, and worked to create the memorial rock to Coach Cooley that sits in the stadium today. Cookie spearheaded the drive to get her Amherst Steele High School graduating class to get the track and field record board put into the high school lobby. Cookie has been a benefactor of the Track and Field program for years and recently sponsored "2016 Good Choices Week", which urges athletes to make good choices the week of Prom. Cookie knows the importance of supporting programs, and we want her to know how much we appreciate her and all she does for others. Please help me thank Cookie for all of her dedication and support over the years.