



**A. Thomas "Tom" Bird
1940 – 2016**

Long Time Comet Relays Official

A. Thomas "Tom" Bird, 75, of Amherst, passed away on Monday, July 11, 2016 at his home following a brief illness. Tom was born on November 1, 1940 in Johnstown, PA where he graduated from Westmont Hilltop High School, and then in 1962 he received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from Penn State University. He was an honorably discharged veteran of the [Army](#) National Guard. He worked as a quality control engineer at US Steel in Lorain from 1962 until 1999 with an ASQ Certification. Following his retirement from US Steel, he had worked for Bodnar Printing and became a toll taker for the Ohio Turnpike Commission, collecting tolls at the Amherst exit. For a short time, he taught at Lorain County Community College.

Tom was a member of Lorain Lighthouse United Methodist Church in Lorain, playing in the Hand Bell Choir, serving in the Outreach Program, Food Pantry and several of the church fund raisers. As a member of the former Delaware Avenue United Methodist Church, he also served on the Pastor Parish Chair, Administrative Board Chair, was a Sunday School Teacher, and played in church golf outings and on the softball team. He was a member of the Lorain Senior Fellowship, Penn State Alumni Association, Nittany Lion Club, and former US Steel Management Club. He was a longtime blood donor with Life Share Blood Bank. He enjoyed golfing, traveling, snow skiing, reading, following Pittsburgh sports teams, and especially attending and watching Penn State football. He bowled and golfed with Management Club, played baseball and softball, and enjoyed being a photographer and videographer. He also was a member of the Amherst Marion L. Steele High School Athletic Boosters.

Tom began volunteer work at the Comet Relays and other track meets in Amherst before 1990, and then in 1994 became an Ohio High School Athletic Association licensed Track & Field Official. He then went on to officiate at countless track meets throughout the northeastern Ohio area over the past 23 years. Tom served as an official for the Comet Relays every year through 2016, where he had become a fixture as the head official for the pole vault event.