

2004 Hall of Fame Inductee

Arnold R. Spirtas

Class of 1951

Arnold Spirtas was born and raised within a shadow's distance of University City High School.

When Spirtas entered Washington University's School of Business in 1951, his initial goal was to work in the retail shoe business.

However, those plans were sidetracked when he was thrust into the family scrap business while attending college. Despite the detour, Spirtas earned a business degree from Washington University and began to focus on the family business. He was 21 years old.



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Initially, Spirtas' scrap business included one truck and one employee. However, as more cities, including St. Louis, focused on redevelopment efforts, Spirtas saw the need for demolition contractors who could be flexible and able to travel to on-site locations.

Today, Spirtas Wrecking Company employs over 150 people and completes demolition projects nationwide. Some of the company's most notable demolition projects include Denver's Mile High Stadium, the St. Louis Arena and the Coral Court Motel.

Spirtas is a charter member of the National Association of Demolition Contractors. His efforts have led to a greater respect and acceptance of the demolition industry.