

2004 Hall of Fame Inductee

Irl S. Solomon

Class of 1957

During his 37 years as a teacher in the East St. Louis School District, Irl Solomon touched the lives of nearly 5000 students. His teaching reflected his passion for history and current events.

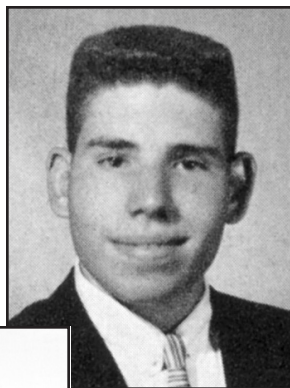
Solomon attended Brandeis University. Following an unhappy semester in law school, he pursued a teaching career with the East St. Louis school system.

He chose the Illinois district for its urban setting and its teachers union.

As a member of the East St. Louis Federation of Teachers, Solomon served on the union's executive council and negotiating committee. He also participated in more than a dozen strikes.

Solomon is featured in Jonathan Kozel's bestseller *Savage Inequalities* which discusses educational disparity in the U.S., and he has studied the Holocaust at the University of Haifa in Israel. He cites his work with the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center and twice being named Teacher of the Year at East St. Louis Sr. High School as his proudest accomplishments.

Solomon holds a Masters Degree from Washington University and is an adjunct political science instructor at St. Louis University and St. Louis Community College at Forest Park.



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