

# Ira Hayes



Ira Hayes -Pima Indian born on the Gila River Reservation in Sacaton, Arizona.

Hayes left school & enlisted in the Marine Corps



February 19, 1945 Hayes took part in the landing on Iwo Jima

Photographer Joe Rosenthal

Became an icon of the war

Overnight, Hayes (on the far left of the photograph) became a national hero

Story drew attention - Native American.



- After the war, Hayes attempted to lead a normal life, unsuccessfully.

*"I kept getting hundreds of letters. And people would drive through the reservation, walk up to me and ask, 'Are you the Indian who raised the flag on Iwo Jima?'"*



On [January 24, 1955](#), Hayes was found dead, near an abandoned hut close to his home on the Gila River Indian Reservation.

Hayes is buried in Section 34 of [Arlington National Cemetery](#).