~ Sargent Michael Strank

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Michael Strank, the U.S. Marine sergeant immortalized in the iconic Iwo Jima flag-raising photograph during World War II, was killed in action in 1945 at age 25 — just six days after the image was taken. Born in present-day Slovakia, he immigrated to the United States as a child and grew up in Pennsylvania. Strank saw action in the Pacific Theater. Those who served with him said he was a “Marine’s Marine.”

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