

Putin Orders Payment of \$115 to WWII Veterans

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Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered a one-time payment of 7,000 rubles (\$115) to World War II veterans in Russia, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, news agency RBC reported Thursday.

The payment will be made between April and May as part of the 70th anniversary of the end of the war. Widows of soldiers who died in the war will also be given 7,000 rubles.

Residents of the four countries who were held in Nazi concentration camps and were adults at that time will be given 3,000 rubles (\$50). Concentration camp survivors who were children will be given 7,000 rubles.

The end of World War II, in which an estimated 11 million Soviet citizens died, is a major source of national pride in Russia. Moscow has invited heads of state from all over the world to attend celebrations in May.

U.S. President Barack Obama's administration has already said that he won't attend.

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