The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

120-year-old Russian Makes it Into the Record Books

May 12, 2016



Tanzilya Bisembeyeva

A 120-year-old Russian woman has entered the record books as the second longest-living person in the world, the Rossiskaya Gazeta newspaper reported Thursday.

Born in 1896, Tanzilya Bisembeyeva has lived in a small village in the Astrakhan region of southern Russia all her life, the newspaper reported. Despite working in the fields for more than 60 years, she lives on a minimal pension because the people who could prove her work record on paper have all died, her son told reporters.

Bisembeyeva's first husband was killed during World War II and their child died during infancy, leaving her alone at the age of 49 when the war ended. A second marriage proposal followed and she had her first son at the age of 53, according to rg.ru. She now has three sons, 10 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

According Russia's Book of Records, Tanzilya Bisembeyeva is the second longest-living

person in the world after Jeanne Calment of France, who lived for over 122 years and died in 1997.

Bisembeyeva's relatives say that she “never sits still, doesn't smoke and eats only organic produce” and enjoys a positive outlook on life.

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