



Oldest man in the world dies

On the 24th of January 2007, Emiliano Mercado Del Toro from Puerto Rico (b. 21 August 1891) died peacefully aged 115 years, 156 days.

Emiliano held two Guinness World Record titles for the Oldest Living Man and Oldest Living Person.

Emiliano was born in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico and became the oldest fully authenticated person on 11 December 2006, aged 115 years, 112 days. Previously confirmed as the oldest living man on 17 January 2005 aged 113 years, 149 days, Emiliano also held the record for the Oldest Living Veteran, having been called up in 1918 by the US Army. A non-combat veteran, he was two months into training when World War I ended on 11 November 1918.

Guinness World Records in conjunction with Robert Young, Gerontology Consultant for Guinness World Records and Senior Claims Investigator for the Gerontology Research Group, has now announced the **new Oldest Living Person** to be Emma Faust Tillman from USA, born on 22nd November 1892. Ms Tillman, originally from Gibsonville, North Carolina, was born to emancipated slaves and went on to become a servant employed by the actress, Katharine Hepburn (USA). Four of her siblings were also centenarians. Her brother, Eugene Tillman, lived to 108 (1888-1996). The other three (all sisters) died at 105, 102, and 102.

Guinness World Records are currently investigating claims for the new Oldest Living Man title, with potential candidates from Japan and USA with ages between 111 and 113. Until the claims are fully authenticated however the title is still open.

Notes to editor:

The Oldest Woman Living in the UK is Aida Mason who was born on 24 September 1895, and took the UK title on 27 November 2006, aged 111 years 65 days, following the death of Annie Knight (born in Glasgow, UK, on 6 June 1895).

The Oldest Man Living in the UK is Henry Allingham who was born in Clapham, London, on 6 June 1896 and took the UK title on 19 January 2007 aged 110 years 227 days. Mr Allingham is also the Oldest Surviving Member of the Armed Forces, having served in both World Wars.

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About Guinness World Records

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For further record information please contact:
presszone@guinnessworldrecords.com