

= Hero of the Russian Federation =

Hero of the Russian Federation (Russian : ????? ?????????? ??????????) is the highest honorary title of the Russian Federation . A person that has been bestowed this title also receives a Gold Star medal , an insignia of honor that identifies recipients .

The title is awarded to persons for " service to the Russian state and nation , usually connected with a heroic feat of valor " . The title is bestowed by decree of the president of the Russian Federation . Russian citizenship or being in the service of the Russian state is not obligatory .

The title was established in 1992 , and has been awarded more than 970 times since then , including more than 440 times posthumously .

= = History = =

The title " Hero of Russia " is a successor to Hero of the Soviet Union (Russian : ????? ?????????? ?????) , which was established by Resolution of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union of May 5 , 1934 . The corresponding Gold Star is derived from the Soviet design , created by architect Miron Merzhanov and approved by Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of August 1 , 1939 .

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 , Russian Federation under president Boris Yeltsin retained a modified award by Law of the Russian Federation ? 2553 @-@ 1 of March 20 , 1992 . Article 71 of the Constitution of Russia permits titles , orders and medals to be presented by the government , and Article 89 gives the Russian president power to create state awards . This is the highest honour that can be presented by the Russian president to a citizen .

= = Statute = =

The title of Hero of the Russian Federation can be awarded for a heroic deed in the service of the state . It can be awarded to both civilian and military personnel . The title can also be awarded posthumously if the heroic act costs the recipient his or her life . The President of the Russian Federation is the main conferring authority of the award .

The insignia of Hero of the Russian Federation is worn on the left side of the chest above all other medals and decorations . Its medal is always worn in full size , there is no ribbon bar or rosette that can be worn in its lieu . When Soviet titles , such as Hero of the Soviet Union or Hero of Socialist Labour are worn together with the medal of the Russian title , the latter has precedence .

= = Description = =

The insignia of the title of " Hero of the Russian Federation " is also called the " Gold Star " medal (Russian : ?????? « ?????? ?????? ») , its design is similar to the Soviet variant .

The " Gold Star " medal is a gold five @-@ pointed star with smooth 15mm dihedral rays on the obverse . The otherwise plain reverse bears the prominent relief inscription in 2mm high letters " HERO OF RUSSIA " (Russian : " ?????? ?????? ") at its center , in the upper portion , the award serial number in 1mm high numbers .

The insignia is secured to a standard Russian square mount by a ring through the suspension loop . The mount is covered by a silk moiré tricolour ribbon of white , blue and red .

= = Recipients = =

The majority of the early recipients of the title fell into two categories : participants in the Chechnya conflicts or cosmonauts . On some occasions , the person who was awarded the title was killed while in the course of duty , such as Major Denis Vetchinov , who was killed early in the 2008 South Ossetia War . This includes those killed in battle as well as assassinated government officials . An example of such a recipient was Akhmad Kadyrov , the former governor of Chechnya . The pro

@-@ Moscow leader was killed in a bomb attack during the 2004 Victory Day parade in the Chechen capital of Grozny . Several days after Akhmad was killed , President Vladimir Putin awarded him the title . Some time after the incident , Putin awarded Kadyrov 's son , Ramzan , the same title for his work in Chechnya .

All Russian cosmonauts are awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation following their voyage into space ; some may already have earned it , for example for long service as a test pilot . Cosmonauts are also awarded the title Pilot @-@ Cosmonaut of the Russian Federation . Some recipients of the title , such as Sergei Krikalev , had also received the Soviet hero title , along with the Order of Lenin . Most of the cosmonaut double heroes were awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union and Hero of Russia titles " for successful realization of flight and the courage and heroism shown . "

Outside of those two groups , athletes and other civilian and military officials have also received the title . Notable examples include :

Submarine captain Gennady Lyachin , of the Kursk , which sank after an explosion in 2000 . Due to his heroism during the explosion and his attempts at preserving the lives of the crew , Lyachin was posthumously awarded the title , and the members of his crew were awarded with the Order of Courage .

Athlete Larisa Lazutina was presented with the title for various medals won at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano , Japan .

Alexander Karelin was awarded for his recognition as the greatest wrestler of all time (from antiquity to the present day) . He was a Greco @-@ Roman wrestler in the Olympics , and in his career he won 887 bouts and lost only 2 times . His losses are controversial because commentators believe they were caused by trivial rule changes , not a bona fide athletic defeat .

Arktika 2007 expedition members Anatoly Sagalevich , Yevgeny Chernyaev and Artur Chilingarov , who , on January 10 , 2008 , performed the first ever descent to the ocean bottom at the North Pole . Awarded the title " for courage and heroism showed in extremal conditions and successful completion of High @-@ Latitude Arctic Deep @-@ Water Expedition . "

Weapons designer Mikhail T. Kalashnikov , designer of the AK @-@ 47 assault rifle and PK machine gun . He received the honor on his 90th birthday , November 10 , 2009 .

The medal has been awarded posthumously approximately 340 times , primarily to people involved in the first and second wars in Chechnya . One of the more recent posthumous awards was made by President Dmitry Medvedev to Evgeny Chernyshov , the chief of the Moscow fire department on March 24 , 2010 . Chernyshov died March 20 , 2010 saving others ' lives .