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1 August 68th Anniversary of the Warsaw Rising

August 1 marks the 68th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, a heroic and tragic struggle to liberate Warsaw from Nazi occupation during World War II. This year, the commemoration begun on Monday, 30 July. On that day, President Bronisław Komorowski took part in the inaugural celebration of the uprising anniversary, that took place in Park Wolności by the Warsaw Uprising Museum.

President decorated insurgents and those who rendered great service to the memory of the uprising. He also awarded insurgents the Silver Crosses of the War Order of Virtuti Militari; these orders were awarded during WWII, however so far failed to be handed in. Referring to the fact, the President said that the orders were awarded pursuant to an oral order given by the uprising authorities. Hence the greatness of Virtuti Militari, the highest military decoration, which is awarded for heroism and bravery in battlefield only, pursuant to decisions taken during the fighting, said President Komorowski.

The celebration was also attended by Warsaw Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, representatives of the uprising and veteran organizations and ministers of the President's Chancellery. On Tuesday, the President, accompanied by members of Parliament, representatives of the city authorities, including Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, uprising combatants, soldiers of the Home Army, veterans, army representatives, scouts, diplomats and representatives of the Churches in Poland as well as residents of Warsaw took part in an church service in the open for the insurgents killed in wartime. After the service, those assembled at the Warsaw Uprising Monument took part in the calling of a roll of honour. On Wednesday morning, on the day of the 68th anniversary of the uprising's outbreak, the President visited the Warsaw military cemetery, where he laid wreaths at the Gloria Victis monument and at the tombs of "Baszta" and "Parasol" Home Army battalions' soldiers. President Komorowski was accompanied by his aunt, Helena Wołowicz, who fought and was wounded during the uprising and the son of the Commander of the Home Army, General Tadeusz Bór-Komorowski.



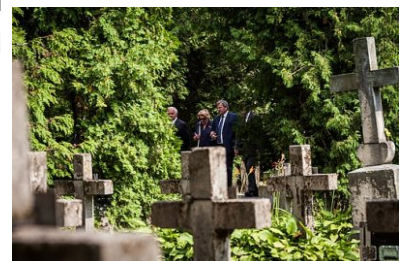
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