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**THE PEABODY ORLANDO WINS MERIT & DISTINCTION  
AWARD FROM MEDICAL MEETINGS MAGAZINE**

**ORLANDO, FLA. -- AUGUST 11, 2008 --** Readers of *Medical Meetings* magazine, the nation's top medical meeting planner journal, have awarded the prestigious Merit & Distinction Award to The Peabody Orlando, for its outstanding service to the medical meetings industry. Out of scores of thousands of hotels throughout North America and overseas, only forty hotels are so recognized.

"The Peabody Orlando has been a consistent presence at the top level of properties that excel in hosting medical meetings. And, it is the only property on the international circuit to win this award for an unprecedented seventeen times," said Lori Cioffi, editor of *Medical Meetings* magazine.

"Medical meetings are among the most important in the meetings and conventions industry today, and we are delighted that the professionals who book and evaluate medical meetings have, for the seventeenth consecutive year, again named The Peabody Orlando as one of the world's top venues for medical meetings," said Alan C. Villaverde, executive vice president, Peabody Hotels, and general manager of the luxury, 891-room, 57,000 sq. ft. convention hotel. Strategically located directly opposite the main entrances to the existing and newly-expanded Orange County Convention Center, The Peabody Orlando has prime location as well as award-winning performance in the medical meetings business.

According to *Medical Meetings* magazine, readers gave the 2008 Merit and Distinction award to just 40 hotels in the US, Canada and around the world. These awards are bestowed on those hotels which over the past twelve months had served the needs of medical meeting planners with extraordinary service, flawless efficiency in all aspects of meetings/exhibitions/audio-visual, first-class communications technology support, as well as comfortable, well-appointed guestrooms, and top-quality banquet and restaurant services.

"Producing memorable events for our meeting planners and their clients is our primary pursuit," continued Villaverde. "It is a significant affirmation of our Peabody Service Excellence® program to have received the Merit & Distinction Award for seventeen consecutive years."

The property is currently undergoing a \$450-million expansion and renovation, projected for completion in the fall of 2010. The hotel will be open for business as usual during this period.

The Peabody Orlando, a Mobil Four-Star and AAA Four-Diamond rated hotel, is a property of Peabody Hotel Group, and a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.