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**LOCAL HOTELIER AND TOURISM VISIONARY ALAN VILLAVERDE HONORED WITH
INDUCTION INTO CENTRAL FLORIDA HOSPITALITY HALL OF FAME**

Orlando, Fla. ... Alan Villaverde, president of Peabody Hotels and managing director of The Peabody Orlando, was honored as an inductee into the Central Florida Hospitality Hall of Fame on Saturday, October 20.

Designed to transform Central Florida's tourism and convention industry, The Peabody Orlando was this year named the nation's number one meetings hotel by Cvent. Villaverde's leadership is cornerstone to such success, and his extraordinary commitment to stimulate growth at The Peabody Orlando has been consistent over his 19 years serving on the hotel's executive committee. Boasting 1,641 ultra-luxurious guestrooms, 300,000 square feet of state-of-the-art flexible function space, 22,000-square-foot full-service spa, salon and fitness center, and ten delectable dining and entertainment options, The Peabody Orlando is a most-loved landmark in the Orlando area. It has maintained its distinguished status as a *Forbes Travel Guide* Four-Star rated hotel for 23 consecutive years, an accomplishment that is largely due to Villaverde's steadfast leadership.

"It is a tremendous honor to celebrate Alan Villaverde's induction into the Central Florida Hospitality Hall of Fame," said Gregg Herning, vice president of sales and marketing for Peabody Hotels. "He is a visionary leader and his dedication to Orlando's hospitality industry is infectious. Those who have interacted with him at our hotel and within the local community witness his passion for progress in the industry. On behalf of everyone at Peabody Hotels and The Peabody Orlando, we congratulate our leader on such a well deserved achievement."

In addition to his roles with Peabody Hotels and The Peabody Orlando, Villaverde serves as chairman of the I-Drive Improvement District, which strives for continuous improvement of Central Florida's vital tourism corridor and promotes businesses within the district to transient and local consumers. Further, Villaverde has championed community service initiatives that extend beyond his support in developing our hospitality industry. He spearheads The Peabody Orlando's Community Relations Committee that offers opportunities for hotel associates to participate in various community service projects across Orlando.

"Alan truly embodies the spirit of this honor," said Dr. Abraham Pizam, Dean of UCF's Rosen College. "His years of service as a hotelier and a leader in the community have made him an obvious choice for induction into the Central Florida Hospitality Hall of Fame."

Villaverde was named the 11th inductee into the Central Florida Hospitality Hall of Fame, joining fellow tourism and hospitality luminaries Albert Covelli, Covelli Enterprises, and Gary C. Sain, Visit Orlando (2012); Al Weiss, Walt Disney Company, and Thomas L. Williams, Universal Parks & Resorts (2011); Carolyn Fennell, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, and Mark McHugh, Gatorland (2010); Jim D. Atchison, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, and Harris Rosen, Rosen Hotels & Resorts (2009); Patricia J. Engfer, Hyatt Orlando, and Richard Nunis, Walt Disney Attractions

(2008); and Richard J. Walsh, Darden Restaurants, and William C. Peeper, Orlando/Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau (2007).

Editors Notes:

Photo 1: [Alan Villaverde headshot](#)

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About The Peabody Orlando:

The Peabody Orlando, opened in November 1986, is a staple in the Orlando-area convention and tourism industry and famous for its Peabody Ducks. The hotel, which is ranked the number one meetings hotel in the United States by Cvent, has received the prestigious *Forbes Travel Guide* Four Star rating for 23 consecutive years. Located directly across from and adjacent to the Orange County Convention Center and in the heart of the International Drive entertainment district, The Peabody Orlando currently offers 1,641 ultra-luxurious guestrooms, 300,000 total square feet of state-of-the-art, flexible function space, a 22,000-square-foot, full-service spa, salon and fitness center and ten delectable dining and entertainment options. Peabody Hotels, comprising The Peabody Orlando, The Peabody Memphis and The Peabody Little Rock (all Forbes Travel Guide Four Star rated hotels) is a division within the portfolio Peabody Hotel Group of Memphis, Tennessee. To learn more, please visit www.PeabodyOrlando.com or www.PeabodyMeetings.com, connect on [Facebook](#) or follow on [Twitter](#).