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Tompkins Joins The Peabody Orlando As New Duck Master

ORLANDO, FL...After an extensive nationwide search, The Peabody Orlando, famous for its five marching mallard ducks, has named Donald Tompkins as its new Duck Master. As one of only three Duck Masters in the world, Tompkins joins The Peabody Orlando just in time for the opening of the hotel's \$450 million expansion on September 23, 2010.

As Duck Master, Tompkins bears responsibility for the care and training of the hotel's resident North American Mallards, administering a training regimen virtually unchanged since its inception in 1939. In keeping with tradition, Tompkins will lead the twice daily Duck March, where he will guide the ducks down from their "Royal Duck Palace" on the hotel's roof to the marble fountain in The Peabody Lobby at 11 a.m., followed by a reversed ceremony at 5 p.m., when the ducks march down the red carpet through crowds of admiring spectators to retire for the evening. In addition to his on-site duties, Tompkins will coordinate off-site presentations and conduct media interviews about wildlife, ducks and the environment and will work within the Guest Services and Front Office areas in accordance with business needs.

"We're pleased to welcome Donald Tompkins to The Peabody Orlando family," stated Alan Villaverde, managing director of The Peabody Orlando. "With his love for animals and passion for working with people, Tompkins is destined to become a local celebrity. In fact, previous Duck Masters have appeared on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, Oprah and as guests on local news stations, so we look forward to all of the exciting adventures he will pursue in his new role."

Tompkins' arrival at The Peabody Orlando is preceded by nearly 40 years of professional experience in sales, customer service and management, including a long tenure with AT&T. After leaving AT&T, Tompkins spent time traveling internationally and upon returning, chose to settle down and spend his time doing volunteer work in Florida. In 2008, Tompkins stepped out of his retirement and became a Sea Lion host at the Worlds

of Discovery – SeaWorld in Orlando. His appreciation for animals and his time working with penguins, sea lions and seals ultimately led him to the doors of The Peabody Orlando, and this prestigious position.

In addition to his preparation for the daily Duck Marches, Tompkins will also be focused on prepping the ducks for their monumental Duck March into the newly expanded hotel. When complete, The Peabody Orlando will feature 1,641 luxurious guest rooms including 193 suites, 300,000 total square feet of state-of-the-art, flexible function space, the 22,000-square-foot, full-service Peabody Spa & Fitness Center and ten delectable dining and entertainment options.

Editors Note: Photo's available

Photo 1: [The Peabody Orlando Ducks at the lobby fountain](#)

Photo 2: [The new Peabody Orlando Duck Master, Donald Tompkins in front of the lobby fountain](#)

Photo 3: [Headshot of Donald Tompkins](#)

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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 has received the prestigious *Forbes Travel Guide* Four Star rating for 22 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](#).