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**FIRST-EVER “PEABODY GOOD SAMARITAN” AWARD GOES  
TO JOEL ARMSTRONG, BANKER, SPOKANE, WA.**

**OLANDO, FLA. -- NOVEMBER 11, 2008** –Alan Villaverde, executive vice president, Peabody Hotels, and general manager of The Peabody Orlando, thought he'd heard every duck story under the sun. That was until he learned of an extraordinary act of human kindness towards a Mamma Duck and her brood of chicks.

“This story touched my heart and I resolved to try to contact Joel Armstrong of Spokane, WA., the man who truly was a Good Samaritan in how he reacted to a critical life-or-death situation for a North American Mallard hen, and her ten fluffy, ducklings,” said Villaverde. “We have invited Mr. Armstrong and his family to be our guest at The Peabody so that we can honor his extraordinary act of kindness to a Mallard hen and her ten babies.” On Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 10:45 am, Villaverde will present the first-ever Peabody Good Samaritan Award to Mr. Armstrong in recognition of his Good Samaritan act. “We honor all peoples and creatures, and will continue to present this award to many more Peabody Good Samaritans in the future, concluded Villaverde.”

The story hit the internet several weeks ago and was picked up around the globe. Joel Armstrong a senior officer with Sterling Bank in downtown Spokane, Washington, had noticed a Mallard hen nesting on top of the concrete awning just outside his office window. He watched as the chicks broke through their eggshells and nestled up to the warm protection of Mamma Duck. All the while, he pondered how Mamma Duck was going to get her babies down from the awning – some 18 ft. off the ground. They were too young to fly down.

“At Peabody Hotels, we know a thing or two about North American Mallard Ducks,” said Villaverde. “New-born chicks must be taken to water within 48 hours of being hatched. Joel Armstrong also knew this. On day two, he noticed that Momma Duck had flown down to the ground and was in full Mamma-mode, as she quacked and encouraged her tiny, fragile chicks to come down to her. They teetered on the edge of the awning. One little chick couldn't resist the call of its Mamma, leaped off and plummeted to the ground. Miraculously, it was not injured.”

That's when Joel Armstrong knew he had to do something to save the rest of the ducklings. He raced downstairs to street level, stood in under the awning. Each time a duckling took the leap, he stepped out, both hands cupped and caught the ball of fluff, placing it in an empty Xerox paper box his colleagues had brought down. Nine times, Armstrong reached out to save the rest of the brood. All ten of the ducklings were safely placed in the box which was angled so that Mamma Duck could see them. They walked two blocks to a pond, with Mamma out in the lead, looking back to make sure her babies were following. Once in the water, Mamma swam back to the bank and quacked a loud thank you to Armstrong and his Sterling Bank colleagues.

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