



Topping Out Ceremony Crowns \$450-Million Expansion of The Peabody Orlando

Orlando, FL – November 2009 – The Topping Out Ceremony for the \$450-million expansion of [The Peabody Orlando](#) took place on Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2009. This age-old Scandinavian construction tradition included the ceremonial placement of a tree atop the new guestroom tower, signifying good fortune for the building and its future residents. The event was appropriately pegged to Veteran's Day and featured the raising of an enormous Stars and Stripes flag which was draped over the façade of the building by US military vets from both The Peabody Orlando and Balfour Beatty US.

Joining in the celebrations were those famous Peabody VIPs, The Peabody Ducks. Escorted by Duckmaster Brooks Chambers clad in the traditional crimson and gold-trimmed jacket, the honorary Duckmasters were Marty Belz, president and chairman, Peabody Hotel Group, Memphis, Tennessee, and Balfour Beatty USA's Al Petrangeli, division president and regional CEO.



Marty Belz, president/chairman, Peabody Hotel Group; Duck Master Brooks Chambers and The Peabody Ducks; Al Petrangeli, division president/regional CEO, Balfour Beatty US



The Topping Out Ceremony began with US military vets from Balfour Beatty and from The Peabody Orlando raising and draping the Stars and Stripes atop the 32-story, 750-guestroom tower on 11.11.2009.



Peabody chefs prepared, and wait staff served, delicious lunch to Balfour Beatty US contractors and construction workers.



L-to-R: Alan Villaverde, president, Peabody Hotels, general manager of The Peabody Orlando; Marty Belz, president and chairman, Peabody Hotel Group; Tony Aslanian, director of sales & Marketing, TPO.

“The Topping Out Ceremony for the new 32-story, 750 guestroom tower was a great moment in the history of Peabody Hotel Group and our Peabody Hotels division,” said Belz. “This extraordinary expansion construction project has moved ahead of schedule and Balfour Beatty US, the contractors and their construction workers are to be congratulated.” The Topping Out Ceremony was the culmination of years of architectural, engineering and interior design planning. “The nation’s meeting planners are already touting the expanded Peabody as one of the industry’s most sought-after meetings hotels,” commented Tony Aslanian, director of sales and marketing. “Upon completion in October 2010, the expanded Peabody Orlando will be among the very few non-gaming hotels of its size and scope in the United States.”

Peabody chefs and wait staff provided a memorable feast for the contractors and construction workers. “This gave us a chance to show our gratitude for, and admiration of, the diligence and attention to construction schedules and standards of work on this project,” said Alan Villaverde, president, Peabody Hotels, and general manager of The Peabody Orlando. “For Peabody associates, especially the very many who have been with the hotel since it first opened back on November 1, 1986, this was truly a day to-be-remembered. I am immensely proud of the dedication and patience of all of our Peabody associates, who throughout the past year’s construction activities have kept our hotel operating at its usual elevated level of service. A week or so ago, for the 21st year in a row, this hotel again earned the prestigious *Forbes Travel Guide* (formerly *Mobil Travel Guide*) Four-Star rating. That is a formidable reaffirmation of consistent adherence to Peabody Service Excellence®. We are excited and well-prepared to launch our newly-expanded hotel ahead of schedule, in October, 2010.”

The Peabody Orlando (www.PeabodyOrlando.com), is a *Forbes Travel Guide* Four-Star, AAA Four-Diamond rated property of Peabody Hotels within the portfolio of Peabody Hotel Group of Memphis, Tennessee.

