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**ACOM ESTABLISHES MEMORIAL AWARD
IN HONOR OF FOUNDER WILLIAM JUST**

PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ – February 17, 2009 – Following the loss of meetings industry visionary William H. Just, the Board of Directors of the Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM) is celebrating his commitment to the industry by establishing the Annual William H. Just CAE, CMP Memorial Award. The announcement of the award followed after ACOM's annual conference, which was held from January 9-11, 2009 in New Orleans.

The award was developed as recognition of Just's instrumental involvement with the launch of the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) program. Every year, the award will be presented to an ACOM member who has recently received his/her CMP certification, and will provide complimentary attendance to the ACOM Annual Conference, which helps to support their CMP status.

2009 ACOM president, Lyan Tassler, notes, "ACOM feels that this award in Bill's memory will forever commemorate the way he elevated the importance of education in the meetings industry."

Mr. Just passed away on December 19, 2008. He founded ACOM in 1988 due to the need for a professional society for convention services managers (CSMs) — the professionals at hotels, convention centers and convention and visitor bureaus (CVBs) who work with association and corporate meeting planners to produce conventions, meetings, tradeshow and public events.

For more information about ACOM, contact Lynn McCullough at (609) 799-3712 or e-mail info@acomonline.org. Look for more details on the award nominations in late 2009.

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About ACOM

The Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM) celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2008 and is dedicated to advancing the practice of convention services management in the meetings industry, and to preparing Convention Service Management professionals for their critical role in the growth and success of their organizations. ACOM members hold many positions in convention and visitors bureaus, convention centers, conference centers, hotels and resorts including: convention services managers, housing managers, operations managers, event service coordinators, directors of convention/tradeshows, catering managers and directors, facility managers, attraction/entertainment facilities, audio visual companies and decorator management companies. For more information, visit www.acomonline.org.