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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE PELL FAMILY AND THE PRATT FAMILY,
LEADERS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION,
HONORED AT PILLAR OF NEW YORK GALA**

ALBANY, NY – November 24, 2009 – The Preservation League of New York State recently honored two distinguished New York families – the **Pells of Fort Ticonderoga** and the **Pratts of Brooklyn** – with its most prestigious commendation at the 2009 Pillar of New York Awards gala at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City.

Since 1992 the Preservation League has presented its Pillar of New York Award to individuals and organizations whose work in the field of historic preservation has made them role models for others throughout the state and nation.

“We celebrate the stewardship of the Pell family as they mark the 100th anniversary of Fort Ticonderoga’s opening to the public,” said Arete Swartz Warren, Chair of the Preservation League. “Since 1820, descendants of William Ferris Pell have been steadfast defenders of this symbol of America’s struggle for independence. They have preserved the Fort and its grounds, the Pavilion and the adjacent King’s Garden, and some 3,800 acres of historic landscapes visible from the ramparts. For their efforts to protect this historic place, we recognize the Pell family as a Pillar of New York.”

The League honored the Pratt family for their founding and leadership of one of New York’s pre-eminent institutions, The Pratt Institute, where they have helped preserve important historic campus buildings in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and at Pratt’s Upstate campus in Utica, and for their efforts to

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promote design excellence and historic preservation. “Whether working with their hands or with their minds, the Pratt family has been a guiding force for higher education, architectural excellence, historic preservation and civic leadership,” said Jay DiLorenzo, president of the Preservation League. “We are confident that generations to come will continue to carry on the proud traditions that make the Pratt family a Pillar of New York.”

Past honorees of the League’s *Pillar of New York Award* include Tiffany & Co. and The Tiffany & Co Foundation; preservation advocates Connie and David Clapp; Phyllis Lambert, the film *Citizen Lambert: Joan of Architecture*, and its director, Teri Wehn Damisch; David Beer and Brennan Beer Gorman / Architects and Brennan Beer Gorman Monk / Interiors; Cook + Fox Architects; Southampton Town Councilman Dennis Suskind; Governor George E. Pataki; developer Frank J. Sciame; Ronald Lauder; the Honorable James R. Houghton; Mrs. Vincent Astor; Peggy and David Rockefeller; architect Hugh Hardy; and Jane Forbes Clark. The League has also previously honored William S. Beinecke, Chairman and Director of the Prospect Hill Foundation; Friends of Hudson; Dia:Beacon, Riggio Galleries; LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust and the Mertz Gilmore Foundation; Chubb Corporation; Cablevision Systems; and the Hilton Hotel Corporation.

The Preservation League of New York State – New York’s only statewide historic preservation organization – is dedicated to promoting historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods, honor our heritage, and enrich our lives. As the State’s preservation leader, the League seeks to recognize and applaud individuals, organizations and businesses which understand the value of our historic resources and have taken extraordinary actions to protect, preserve and promote those assets.

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