

A Message from Freeborn Regarding The Bunker

A FREEBORN & PETERS CLIENT ALERT



On Monday, November 10, 2014 – the day before Veterans Day- Freeborn answered the call to help our nation’s service members and took action. At a luncheon held at Chicago’s Union League Club, we announced our partnership with The Bunker, the country’s first veteran-owned business incubator that is started by veterans, run by veterans, and for veteran entrepreneurs.



Choosing to support this initiative was an easy decision. Veterans serve as important members of the Freeborn family, including founding Partner Michael D. Freeborn and Partner Todd J. Ohlms, both of whom spoke at the luncheon – which was co-sponsored by Freeborn and The Bunker. In fact, it was Mr. Ohlms who initially met with The Bunker founder and fellow veteran Todd Connor to initiate the relationship.

“I was introduced to Todd Connor through a fellow Air Force alumnus,” said Mr. Ohlms during his address. “He told me about The Bunker, and I wanted to help. We both recognized that Veterans Day is a day to serve veterans, and there are many ways to serve our fellow veterans the way they have served us. One way is to help The Bunker support its portfolio companies.”

Freeborn also is a firm that prides itself on its core values, values that are closely aligned with those of our service members: integrity, caring, effectiveness, teamwork and commitment.



As Mr. Freeborn said during his remarks, “From my personal military service, I know from experience that organizations that are committed to these types of core values are organizations that will succeed.”

Mr. Freeborn then reiterated the firm’s commitment to veterans and its support of The Bunker and issued a challenge to attendees.

“Some of us at Freeborn are going to head to The Bunker and help each of the veteran entrepreneurs solve whatever legal challenges are on their plates,” Mr. Freeborn said. “I challenge everyone else in the room to figure out a way to do their parts, too. I hope a year from now each of us has done something to serve those who have so willingly served each of us.”



Also in attendance at the event were representatives from other corporate partners who are giving their support to The Bunker, including business leaders from Wintrust, DLA Piper, Deloitte, Comcast and the McCormick Foundation. U.S. Senator Mark Kirk and Illinois Governor-elect also addressed the audience.

“I’m all in for you,” said Governor-elect Rauner. “When I commit to somebody, you got a heck of a partner.”



In addition to the showing of corporate and political support, The Bunker also used the event to announce its expansion into other cities, including Tacoma, WA; Kansas City, MO; Los Angeles, CA; Austin, TX; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, PA; and Colorado Springs, CO.

When an organization makes a decision to align itself with partners whose values and goals are in lockstep, it makes for a beneficial relationship for all. Freeborn is committed to supporting the entrepreneurial community and the veteran community, and The Bunker is a unique program that provides the opportunity to do both simultaneously. We look forward to our work with The Bunker and its portfolio companies, and we encourage everyone to find a way to give back to our nation’s service members.



As Mr. Ohlms said in his remarks at the luncheon, “You have a mission now, and that mission needs to be accomplished by tomorrow. Help those who have helped serve you.”



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