



DRIVE AROUND IN CIRCLES FOREVER

# TwinCities BUSINESS

[Home](#) | [E-newsletters](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [About Us](#) | [Follow Us](#)



[NEWS](#) | [LEADERSHIP](#) | [INDUSTRIES](#) | [LISTS + RESEARCH](#) | [OPINION](#) | [LIFE STYLE](#) | [HONORS + EVENTS](#) | [MAGAZINE](#)
**HIGHLIGHTS** Millennium Hotel Plans \$20M Renovation | Supervalu to Shutter 60 Stores | 2 Local Cos. Among "World's Most Innovative"


## Bald Eagle Erectors



Photo by Travis Anderson

Founder David Bice built a diverse ironworking business.

David Bice enlisted in the Marine Corps after dropping out of South High School in Minneapolis. He served three years before returning to civilian life in 1980. "Joining the Marines turned my life around," he says. "There were no good jobs and I needed to grow up. That's where I learned to be responsible."

As founder and CEO of Egan-based Bald Eagle Erectors, Bice is now responsible for a \$7.5 million steel erection company with 32 employees.

It was only natural to get into the iron business after leaving the Marines—Bice's grandfather and his grandfather's three brothers were ironworkers. "I was an ironworker apprentice in Iron Workers 512," Bice says. "I worked for my cousin's rigging company. I had always wanted to start a company, so when he retired and closed his business, I decided to start mine."

In 1994, Bice chipped in \$7,000 to start a company with a partner, whom he bought out a year later. The Bald Eagle Erectors name popped into his head while he was preparing the necessary paperwork in his lawyer's office.

Since then, Bald Eagle has worked on several notable projects, including the Minneapolis Central Library, the 494 bridge across the Minnesota River, the University of Minnesota Bioscience Project, and the pedestrian bridge for the new Twins stadium.

The company provides construction and installation of structural steel and concrete rebar, millwright and welding services, and moving services for heavy equipment such as boilers, condensers, turbines, chillers, generators, and transformers. (For instance, Bald Eagle recently moved some transformers for Xcel Energy, jacking them up on hydraulic jacks, putting rollers underneath, and pulling them with a winch truck.) Other services include ironwork for construction projects, placing architectural precast panels, and controlled demolition of steel structures.

The company itself was almost demolished a couple of times due to unscrupulous business associates. During

### Always Faithful

by Phil Bolsta

December 2, 2008

[« Return to main article](#)


### Most Popular

Millennium Hotel Mpls. to Close in Dec. for \$20M Renovation

10-Story Luxury Apartment Bldg. Coming to St. Louis Park

Supervalu to Shutter 60 Stores, Stays Mum on Affected Jobs

Ecolab, General Mills Among "World's Most Innovative Cos."

Life Time Fitness Buys Assets from MGC Diagnostics for \$1.24M



DRIVE AROUND IN CIRCLES FOREVER

his years in the military, Bice had heard over and over that “a Marine never gives up.” It was a lesson that served him well in those difficult times.

His first major challenge came when he realized that the bills weren't being paid, even though revenues were healthy. After bringing in an accountant for an audit, he discovered that an employee had embezzled roughly \$100,000. The lesson? “I learned to pay attention a lot more to everything,” he says.

After recovering from that, Bice was stiffed for a whopping \$360,000 by a contractor. “He paid his bills on time until the job was 95 percent done,” Bice says. “Then he pocketed the rest and said, ‘I'm out of money. That's business.’”

Bice fought back. “People were telling me I should go bankrupt and start over, but that's not the answer,” he says. “A lot of people would have given up, but we worked through it and paid all our vendors and our banker.”

With the economy hurting, Bald Eagle's revenues are down about 20 percent, but Bice's perspective can be boiled down to two words: *semper fidelis*, the watchwords of the Marines. He wants his employees to know that they can count on him to be “always faithful.” “I have a lot of great employees who have been with me over 10 years,” he says. “They're hard-working ironworkers. My project manager and estimator, Howard Christianson, has been with me nine years. He's stuck with me through thick and thin.”

Bice has made it a priority to help recruit Native American youth to come into the industry. He serves on the boards of the Metropolitan Economic Development Association, the National Association of Minority Contractors, and the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce. “I get a chance to hire a lot of people of color and give them a chance,” Bice says.

### Augeo Affinity Marketing

Food for Change

### Consolidated Container Company

Back in the Family

### Cotterweb Enterprises

Online Takes Off

### Minnetronix

Helping to Heal

### Pictura Graphics

Picture-Perfect Opportunity

### Smart Candle

Seeing the Light

### Synovis Life Technologies

Healing Power

### Z Wines USA

Serving New Wine



SUBSCRIBE

#### Who We Are

Twin Cities Business is Minnesota's leading provider of business news, insight, and analysis through a monthly magazine, twice-weekly e-newsletter, daily online news stories, events, and an annual business information guide. Along with our readers, we get to know the personalities of our region's most influential leaders, exploring the “how” behind their success, strategies, and solutions. We discuss today's most pressing issues, examine trends and outlooks, and provide the context, perspective, and information leaders have come to depend upon.

#### About Us

- Contact Us
- Editorial Staff
- Editorial Calendar
- Print Subscriptions
- E-Newsletter Subscriptions
- Privacy Policy
- Terms of Service

#### Advertise

- Advertising Staff
- Media Kit
- Demographics
- Print Rates & Production Specs
- Online Rates & Production Specs
- Ad Uploader
- Sponsorship & Events

#### Channels

- Twitter
- Facebook
- YouTube

#### Site

- News
- Leadership
- Industries
- Lists + Research
- Opinion
- Life Style
- Honors + Events
- Magazine

