

**MONTGOMERY AREA VETERANS
RIFLE DISPLAY
AMERICAN LEGION POST #79
VFW POST #5340**



On November 19th, 2015, this rifle display, built and donated by Dave Bruzek, demilitarized by Ryan Bruzek, of Montgomery, MN, was placed and dedicated by the Montgomery Area Veterans of Montgomery, Minnesota. Other sponsors of this display include the American Legion, Post #79, and the VFW Post #5340, which donated materials for the case.

The history of the rifles enclosed in this beautiful rifle case begins in the year 1892. The United States Army adopted the Springfield Model 1892-1899, Krag .30-40 as the standard military long-arm. Although “Krag” were very popular, unique, and efficient, the bolt-action was cumbersome. Approximately 500,000 “Krag” were produced from 1892-1904 by the Springfield Armory in Massachusetts. The “Krag” were completely phased out of service by 1907, as the M1903 Springfields became available. The “Krag” were then issued to the National Guard, Army Reserve, and WWI rear-echelon US troops in France, and as training arms at Stateside bases. In the 1930’s, many of the “Krag,” such as these rifles, were issued to veterans’ organizations, including American Legions and Veterans of Foreign Wars, for ceremonial use and Honor Guards.

Under the direction of 2014-2015 American Legion Commander, Jim Slavik, the rifles were rescued from sure destruction by the US Army. Sgt-At-Arms, Gary Ruhland contacted the US Army and requested permission to display the rifles, after many years of being hidden away in storage at the Post. The Army didn’t give up easy; Ruhland was frustrated with many months of paperwork passing back and forth to get the proper permission for displaying the rifles, according to US Army-Regulations.

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