

The Iraq War, was a prolonged conflict in Iraq lasting from 2003 to 2011.

It began with the invasion by a United States-led coalition, which resulted in the overthrow of the Ba'athist government of Saddam Hussein.

The conflict persisted as an insurgency arose against coalition forces and the newly established Iraqi government. U.S. forces were officially withdrawn in 2011.

In 2014, the U.S. became re-engaged in Iraq, leading a new coalition under Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, as the conflict evolved into the ongoing Islamic State insurgency.



A moment of Rocchetti's time in Iraq

Memorial Day Program

Monday May 26, 2025

**Rotary Park Bandstand
Kennedy Drive, Putnam, CT**



Michael Rocchetti – U.S. Air Force 1980-2010



Michael Rocchetti
U.S. Air Force 1980-2010

Michael was born in New London Connecticut on February 24th, 1956, the son of Enrico L. Rocchetti (1927-1999) of New London CT, and Joanne R. Lamothe (1933-2006) of Somerville MA.

He graduated from New London High School and the University of Connecticut.

In 1980 he married Roberta Chicoine of Putnam CT. That same year he also enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as an engineering officer. Between active duty and reserve duty, he served thirty years, including two tours of duty in Iraq during the war.

He retired from the USAF in 2010 as a Colonel. He worked for many years at his alma mater – the University of Connecticut.

He has been a resident of Putnam CT since 2014. He is currently the Commander of the Mayotte-Viens Post #13 of the American Legion.

He and his wife Roberta have three children and three grandchildren.

Parade Marshal:

Michael Rocchetti – U.S. Air Force Colonel, 1980-2010

Poppy Queens:

American Legion: Paige Perry, V.F.W.: Rilynne-Mae Sargent

Bugler: Tyler Eddy

Keynote Speaker – Roger C. Franklin, U.S. Army Colonel (RET)

Lifelong resident of Putnam. Life member, Past Adjutant & Past Service Officer of the Mayotte-Viens American Legion Post #13

PHS Choir Director: Skye Shogran

PMS Band Director: Jessica Sanzi

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Opening

Roy Simmons, MC

Advancement of Colors

American Legion and V.F.W. Color Guards
with Riflemen

National Anthem & God Bless America

Putnam Clipper A Capella singers

Opening Prayer

Tod Smith, V.F.W. Chaplain

Wreath Laying Ceremony

V.F.W. Post 1523 Commander - Jonathan Drew

A.L. Post 13 Commander - Michael Rocchetti

Riflemen Fire Salute

Taps Bugler: Tyler Eddy

Remembrance of Deceased Soldiers

Pierre Desilets, American Legion Chaplain

Welcome - MC

Roy Simmons, MC, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy (RET)

Welcome - Town of Putnam

Mayor Barney Seney

Patriotic Song

PHS Concert Band

Keynote Address

Roger C. Franklin

U.S. Army Colonel (RET)

Special Presentation

Patriotic Song: Armed Forces on Parade

PHS Concert Band

Benediction

Pierre Desilets, American Legion Chaplain