



**Puebla**  
Contigo y con rumbo  
Gobierno Municipal

Presidencia

**Dear friends of the community of Columbia, Tuolumne County California**

It is an honor for me to greet you and address you in the most significant and relevant commemoration in our history, as a country and as a municipality: The Anniversary of the Battle of May 5, for which Puebla de Zaragoza has played a very important role, in the history of Mexico and the world.

From the period of the Viceroyalty of New Spain (1535-1821), Puebla became the second most important city, standing out for its architecture, education, religiosity, commerce and gastronomy. Thanks to this cultural development, the Historic Center of Puebla has been a World Heritage Site since 1987.

Puebla is considered four times heroic. One of them due to the defense in the Battle of May 5, 1862, after President Benito Juárez proclaimed the suspension of the payment of the foreign debt and Mexico was invaded by the army of Napoleon III.

The worst mistake of the French army was to take it for granted that they would win the battle and even affirmed: "We are so superior to the Mexicans in organization, discipline, race, morale and refinement of sensibilities, that I beg you to announce to His Imperial Majesty, Napoleon III, that from this moment and under the command of our 6,000 brave soldiers, we are already owners of Mexico".

For three hours the Mexican army repelled the French attack. Against all expectations, an unexpected victory filled the Mexican people with glory and honor. The Mexican Army was able to defeat the most powerful troops of that time: the troops of Napoleon III.

General Ignacio Zaragoza wrote in a report on the matter: "The national arms have been covered in glory. The French troops behaved bravely in combat and their commander with arrogance, foolishness and clumsiness. And in his letter to President Juárez he read: "It may be that they are the best army in the world, but we are the best sons of Mexico."

A short time later, Zaragoza died and the Mexican Congress inscribed his name in gold letters and gave Puebla the title of Puebla de Zaragoza.

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[pueblacapital.gob.mx](http://pueblacapital.gob.mx)



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H. Ayuntamiento de Puebla



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The Mexican victory in the Battle of May 5 represented national unification against a new foreign invasion but also helped the cause of the Federates in the United States. The Union began to gain ground in the American Civil War, until its triumph in 1865.

This is how the two populations, at the same time, are united in a victory for each of the causes that will give rise to a new history for both countries.

For the people of Puebla, May 5 is a great celebration. From April 16, date of the Foundation of Puebla and throughout the month of May, a fair is held, with palenque and sale of Mexican products. And from here, we celebrate with all of you this great party in Puebla and Mexico!

I send you my respects, reiterating that Puebla is your home and we have open arms to receive the inhabitants of Columbia and District 5 of Tuolumne County, California.

SINCERELY  
CUATRO VECES HEROICA PUEBLA DE ZARAGOZA, MAY 05TH, 2022  
"CONTIGO Y CON RUMBO"

EDUARDO RIVERA PEREZ  
CONSTITUTIONAL MUNICIPAL PRESIDENT  
OF THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL OF PUEBLA

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