

# Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Cinco de Mayo

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On May 5, 1862, the Mexican army, led by Texas native General [Ignacio Seguin Zaragoza](#), defeated a much larger expeditionary French force near Puebla at the Mexican forts of Loreto and Guadalupe. The Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates the victory and is also celebrated in Texas and throughout the Southwest. Zaragoza became a national hero in Mexico, but died of typhoid fever the following September.

The [Zaragoza Birthplace State Historic Site](#) was established near Goliad to honor the Texas-born General ([Parks & Wildlife Code, Sec. 22.082](#)). In 1961, the [57th Legislature](#) authorized transfer of the Zaragoza birthplace site from Goliad County to the State Parks Board, and in 1971, the [62nd Legislature](#) made the Zaragoza site a part of Goliad State Park. On September 13, 1980, the Governor of Puebla presented a [10-foot, 3,000 pound bronze statue](#) of Zaragoza to Goliad State Park.

Celebrate the 150th anniversary by spending [36 Hours in Puebla, Mexico](#) [*New York Times*, April 19, 2012] or checking out [What's On in Puebla for the 150th Cinco de Mayo](#) [All About Puebla].

## Sources:

Ron Stone, *The Book of Texas Days*, Shearer Pub., 1984

*Handbook of Texas Online*, [Texas native Zaragoza repels French army on Cinco De Mayo, May 5, 1862](#), [Ignacio Seguin Zaragoza](#), [General Zaragoza State Historic Site](#), and [Goliad State Historical Park](#)

Mary Love Bigony, ["Two Nations Honor Texas-Born Hero,"](#) *Texas Parks and Wildlife*, December 1980

*General Ignacio Zaragoza, ca. 1850-1862*

Courtesy of the [Library of Congress](#)