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Introduction

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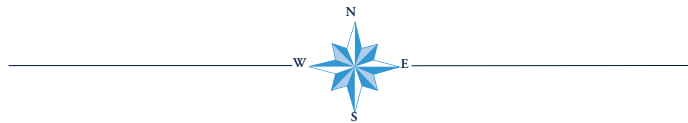
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Introduction

Secretary William S. Cohen

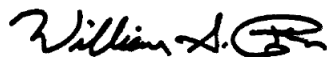
Following my decision in 1996 to retire from the United States Senate, I determined that the most fitting and deserving recipient for the Congressional Papers documenting my nearly quarter century of public service representing the State of Maine in the halls of Congress was the flagship campus of the University of Maine because it, too, served the people of Maine as its premier public institution of higher learning. The files from the years I served as Secretary of Defense under President Clinton were added in 2001. The Papers chronicle six presidencies, two historical constitutional crises, the end of the Cold War, a war in Eastern Europe, and thousands of votes affecting everyday Americans. It was my hope that this Collection would become a resource of interest and value to students, faculty, historians, researchers and the general public, and that the Papers I have donated to UMaine will over time become a more frequently used reference for class research assignments and individual study projects.

In talking to students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in a variety of disciplines over the years, I have been struck by their love for learning, their enthusiasm for the process of discovering new insights, and their desire for more opportunities to share their work with others. Research challenges our understanding of the world. It searches for answers to questions provoked by the past, mandated by the challenges of the present, and posed by the desire to design a better future.

Quality research is grounded in the passionate pursuit of learning more about a subject, fueled by intellectual curiosity and pursued with the rigor of intellectual honesty. It requires one to seek a path through the trees in search of the forest, to sort through a collection of facts and ideas and theories in search of new revelations. John Gardner, one of my favorite writers and educators, spoke of the distinction between “loving critics” and “critical lovers.” I would suggest that a good researcher is a Truth Seeker and must be both when it comes to his/her subject matter.

I would like to thank Darren Reid, our first Cohen Research Associate, who is pursuing original research using the Cohen Papers for his entrepreneurial spirit in coming up with the concept now referred to as *The Cohen Journal* to give student researchers an opportunity to publish their work. Thank you also to the faculty and students who gave of their talent and time as advisors and reviewers as this journal took shape. And finally, congratulations to the students whose works were chosen for inclusion in *The Cohen Journal's* maiden voyage.

To those of you who pursue knowledge through the questions you ask and seek answers to, as a former Latin major I leave you with one last guiding thought to light your way – *Semper Quaeite Veritatum* (Always Seek the Truth).



Secretary William S. Cohen