

Nicole D. Long, Mount Vernon College dean

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Nicole D. Long, a retired dean of continuing education at the former Mount Vernon College in Washington who, as a member of the French Resistance during World War II, helped rescue Jewish infants from the Nazis, died Aug. 24, 2013, at Reston Hospital Center in Virginia. She was 92. The cause was complications from heart disease, said her daughter, Sylvia V. Long.

From 1953 to 1987, Mrs. Long served on the faculty at Mount Vernon, which has since been absorbed into George Washington University. She was a professor of French, Latin and Greek in addition to serving as dean.

In the 1970s, as undergraduate enrollment declined, the adult education program at Mount Vernon grew substantially. As dean, Mrs. Long recruited friends and acquaintances from around the area to teach classes ranging from “The Making of an Ex-Astronaut” to sailing to gardening and cooking.

Nicole Jeanne Celina Denier was born in Paris and received a degree in classical literature at the Sorbonne in 1942.

Her family said that during the Nazi occupation of Paris during World War II, she was a Resistance operative, taking Jewish infants by train from Paris to safe houses in southern France and Italy. She also smuggled guns for the Resistance and harbored Jewish refugees in her apartment, according to her family.

Her mother was Jewish, but her father was a French Catholic, and she had identity papers that concealed her Jewish ethnicity. She was arrested once by French police who intended to deliver her to the Nazis to be sent to the Auschwitz death camp, but she managed to talk the French authorities into releasing her.

In 2003, she gave a seven-hour interview to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on her wartime experiences.

At the end of the war, she married an American soldier, John V. Long, and accompanied him home. She received a fellowship in classics at the University of Chicago and taught French at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. The Longs came to the Washington area in 1951.

A longtime resident of Bethesda, Mrs. Long had lived in Reston for the last nine years with her caretaker and former daughter-in-law, Lucia Rapazzo.

Her husband died in 2004 after a 58-year marriage. Survivors include two children, Olivier Denier Long of the District and Sylvia V. Long of Rockville, and four grandchildren.

— **Bart Barnes**