

March

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niversary) pass by with just candles and a commemoration," said march organizer Serouj Arahamian.

Marchers number about 20 during weekdays, Arahamian said, but that number swelled to more than 100 last weekend.

Assemblyman Greg Aghazarian, R-Stockton, who will meet the group when they arrive at the capitol steps, commended the marchers.

"It's a tribute to our strong culture that the youth picks up the torch from the previous generation and raises awareness," he said in a phone interview Friday.

A resolution commemorating the genocide will be heard on

the Assembly floor next week, Aghazarian said. Thirty-six states have recognized the genocide.

Aghazarian said it "shocks the conscience" that the U.S. and Turkish governments have not recognized the first genocide of the 20th century, though Turkey has shown signs that many hope will lead to an acknowledgment.

"The time has come for the Turkish government to acknowledge the crimes of their forefathers 90 years ago," he said. "The more awareness we have, the more likely it won't happen again."

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MIKE GRAFFIGNA/NEWS-SENTINEL

Left, Berj Parseghin, Shant Kahvedjian, Shant Atikiav and Chris Torossian relax after a 15-mile march at St. Christopher's in Galt on Friday.