

Marchers remember Armenian genocide

By Tracy Correa
The Fresno Bee

Pasadena resident Jack Ghazarian set out Sunday morning with a group of about 30 marchers on a rural Madera County road lined with vineyards.

The group — carrying signs and an American flag — was marching to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. It was the second day of a 215-mile, 18-day trek to

remember the 1.5 million Armenians killed between 1915 and 1923 at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

At 57, Ghazarian was one of the older participants in the March for Humanity. He took each step with pride and determination, and had no problem keeping pace with the younger marchers.

He missed Saturday when the group departed at 9 a.m. from Holy Trinity Armenian Apostol-

ic Church at Ventura and M streets in Fresno, but he was bent on marching Sunday. He said he had to; it was a mission.

"I'm here to recognize the genocide. In memory of my grandparents," Ghazarian said.

He said all four of his grandparents died during the mass execution. He grew up in Lebanon never knowing them and wishing he had.

Hundreds of marchers and

supporters from across the nation and Canada are expected to join in the march, which concludes with a rally in Sacramento.

After covering the first 18 miles Saturday, the group settled in for the night at the homes of Fresno-area participants. They awoke Sunday morning and hit the road again shortly after 10 a.m. It was a later start than they had planned because

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