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Half-Staffed American Flags

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Half-Staffed American Flags

Americans

forget

Americans

ignore

Americans

dismiss

Americans

turn out

Americans

shut out

Americans

gun down

Americans

in the recent past, lowered the American flag rarely—to honor the passing of dignitaries or signify a resonant national tragedy—not eulogize weekly gunshot casualties who lay bleeding and dying in schools and churches and public squares, victims of psychologically distraught Americans lacking any real human connection or ancillary support for serious mental afflictions, packing semiautomatic pistols and bump-stocked assault rifles that spray bullets like drizzles of rain, shooters unable to cope with an unending barrage of sensationalized media voices in their heads, grasping at any relevance available from a mention on the 24-hour TV news, swathing other Americans with bullets and leaving a windrow of dead to winnow in the draft of talking heads howling and pointing fingers without a single significant intimation to help stop the bleeding and the dying and the killing of

Americans

disparage

Americans

antagonize

Americans

outrage

Americans

shout at

Americans

scream at

Americans

gun down

Americans.