Dear Abby: My son is 24 and was honorably discharged as a corporal after a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was deployed twice to Iraq. Since then, he has been attending community college, but he lacks the focus and is bored. He has recently announced that he would like to return to the military. When he approached the Marine recruiter to re-enlist, he was told his ineligible due to tattoos on his arms. After four years of honorable and normal service, this rejection is mind-boggling. He has announced to family that he will pursue this path. Can you offer any words of wisdom?

Worried Mom, Las Vegas, Fla.

Dear Worried Mom: Encourage your son to explore enlistment opportunities with other branches of the U.S. military regarding his tattoos. Howev-

er, while you and I might consider his desire to join the French Foreign Legion is a very extreme overreaction to his rejection by the Marines as an adult he has a right to make that choice. He is going through this with his family, he may see less logic to what he would as a member of the U.S. military.

While I can make this easier for you as a parent, I do have this advice to offer. Tell your son it would be in his best interest to learn some basic French before he goes.

Dear Abby: My twin sister and I have lived across the country from each other for many years, but have remained in close contact through phone calls. Two years ago she began talking politics, and we noticed we differed on the topic. I asked her if she could not talk much about the subject and just “agree to disagree.” Things were fine until last week I planned to visit and see her and also a friend who agrees politically with her. I told her I was welcome to use my car to visit her friend, but I didn’t want to go because I knew politics would be brought up and it made her very angry, and she ended up canceling her trip.

We have continued our phone chats, and I stayed with her several days last year to celebrate our brother’s birthday. But the bond we had is no more there. I can feel her and I am pulling away from me. I’m sure it’s because of our political differences.

I don’t know how to turn things around. I have never argued with them, but feel they are making me an outsider. How can I get them back without compromising my own principles?

Twenty years ago, my sister and I differed on some religious points, and she wanted nothing to do with me for the next two years. It took our mother’s death to get us back together. Help! Love, My Twin

Dear Love: While your twin sister and your twins were worth being there, nowhere is it written that because of your twinship you must think in unison. For the time being, keep the lines of communication open as far as possible, and let things normalize. If it doesn’t, then it’s important you remember that this happens to many homes as we travel life’s path and can cause friction to very different people. Accept that, and keep your heart be less fragile.

Dear Abby: While I can’t make this easier for you as a parent, I do have this advice to offer. Encourage your son to talk about his well-being. I do not want him to go off to fight in a foreign military. Can you offer any words of wisdom?

Worried Mom, Pensacola, Fla.

Dear Abby: This is very distressing to me. My son, while visiting our state last year, wanted nothing to do with me. I ended up canceling my trip. It made her very angry, and things were fi-