

*CBS Mornings*

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7:01:15 a.m. [TEASE]

9 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America's Immigration Fight]

NATE BURLESON: Migrants are flown to Martha's Vineyard not knowing where they are. How they wound up being used for politics.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD OFFICIAL: We're striving to coordinate to help all of you.

(...)

7:09:36 a.m.

4 minutes and 38 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; DeSantis Sends Migrants to Martha's Vineyard; Dozens of Migrants Flown in Unannounced, Wander into Town Seeking Help]

TONY DOKOUPIL: Back in this country, we want to tell you about an escalation in the political fight over immigration. Dozens of apparent migrants landed by charter flight on a rocky island in the Atlantic, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This was yesterday afternoon. They arrived as part of what Governor Ron DeSantis calls a relocation program. Many did not know where they were going, and local officials on the island were not given advance notice of the flight's arrival. Nick Giovanni of our Boston station WBZ is in Woods Hole. That's just across the water from Martha's Vineyard, in Massachusetts. Nick, good morning.

NICK GIOVANNI: Tony, good morning to you. This is one of the ferry terminals here on Cape Cod that takes passengers to Martha's Vineyard and it is there this morning where those migrants are waking up in at least two shelters that we know of following an island-wide response to their arrival. Volunteers on Martha's Vineyard found themselves scrambling to find shelter, food, water, and other services to accompany the unforeseen arrival of 50 migrants, including elderly and children, flown there as part of a relocation plan organized by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

BARBARA RUSH: Martha's Vineyard Community Services had 50 people sort of literally walk up to their front door.

GIOVANNI: Witnesses say the group wandered some three miles from the airport into Edgartown. Once in town, the migrants were met by volunteers who brought them to a high school where they were fed and later transported by school bus to a church to stay for the night. Authorities sent out urgent pleas on social media asking for volunteers to help with an urgent humanitarian situation. Barbara Rush worked into the night helping the families at St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

RUSH: From what we found out by talking to the people, they're originally from Venezuela. They were flown here. We're not sure what — what plane bought them here, how they got on a plane to here.

GIOVANNI: Volunteers said they were told by some of the migrants they did not know where they were but were told they would be given housing and jobs. A statement from a Desantis spokesperson read in part, "Massachusetts, New York, and California will better facilitate the care of these individuals who they are invited into our country by incentivizing illegal immigration through their designation as sanctuary states." Since the spring, Republican governors in Texas and Arizona have transported several thousand migrants and asylum seekers to New York, Chicago, and Washington, D.C., all cities with Democratic mayors. Yet, unlike those major cities, these arrivals aren't met with migrant resources and services like immigrations courts where their asylum cases can be heard.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DYLAN FERNANDES (D-MA): Immigrants who were told that they would be greeted here with a place to stay and with jobs.

GIOVANNI: Massachusetts State Representative Dylan Fernandes arrived on the island Wednesday and called the move by the DeSantis government to transport migrants there with seemingly no coordination, "evil."

FERNANDES: They're using children as political pawns. But the island community has really rallied together.

GIOVANNI: In addition to food and shelter, migrants were also tested for COVID and were all negative, we're told. Now, as for Massachusetts' governor, Charlie Baker, who's also a Republican, his office told us the state will continue to support the short-term sheltering services provided to those migrants. The reporting from Woods Hole, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, Nick Giovanni. Tony, back to you in New York.

DOKOUPIL: Nick Giovanni for us from WBZ there, our partners in Massachusetts. A story unlike any I'm sure you or your station's ever covered. Thank you very much. This has not happened in this way before.

BURLESON: Right.

DOKOUPIL: There's been a crisis at the border for multiple decades. Congress, multiple presidents have not solved that crisis. There's been bussing to Chicago, to D.C., to New York.

BURLESON: Right.

DOKOUPIL: The difference here is that Martha's Vineyard is a tiny island of 15,000 people —

GAYLE KING: Yes.

DOKOUPIL: — without an ICE court, without an infrastructure that can handle an influx like this, without social services in place.

BURLESON: Let alone on late notice.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah, late notice.

GAYLE KING: Yeah, like no notice.

BURELSON: No notice.

KING: Yeah, it's just —

DOKOUPIL: You know, ultimately, they're probably going to end up in Boston. But you know, it's a change. That's why we call it an escalation off the top.

BURLESON: Of course.

DOKOUPIL: This is a shift in strategy.

KING: — I thought the word inhumane was a good — good one to use in this case. When people don't know where they're going, the people that are there don't know you're coming. It's good to see, though, that they're being welcomed and that people are trying to help them.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah.

BURLESON: Yeah.

KING: But you're right —

BURLESON: Volunteers.

KING: — I've been in Martha's Vineyard many times. It's a great, great place. But at least give notice so they can prepare.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah, prior to this, best known for where they shot *Jaws*.

KING: Yes.

BURLESON: Right.

DOKOUPIL: But I don't think — it's not the end of this story. This is going to continue, I think.

KING: Yeah.

BURLESON: For sure.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah.

(...)

8:01:31 a.m.

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Migrant Relocation]

BURLESON: Dozens of migrants are flown to Martha's Vineyard by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

FERNANDES: They're using children as political pawns.