Beat: Entertainment

Dukes Of Hazzard Legend Ben Jones Dies

August 9th, After A Heart Attack

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USPA NEWS - Ben Jones, the incredibly talented actor forever remembered as Cooter Davenport on The Dukes of Hazzard, has died on August 9, 2026, at the age of 84.

Ben Jones inspired millions of television viewers with his iconic portrayal of Cooter, the trusted mechanic and loyal friend to Bo and Luke Duke, appearing in 141 episodes of The Dukes of Hazzard from 1979 to 1985 and leaving an enduring legacy as one of the show's most beloved characters.

But before Cooter came a little-known Disney role. In 1978, Jones appeared as Sgt. Bingham in The Million Dollar Dixie Deliverance, a Walt Disney Productions Civil War drama that aired as part of The Wonderful World of Disney. Just one year later, Ben Jones would assume the role of Cooter Davenport when The Dukes of Hazzard premiered.

In 1999, Jones and his wife, Alma Viator, pioneered the launch of Cooter's, a vibrant Dukes of Hazzard museum and store in Sperryville, Virginia, which blossomed into a thriving destination for fans. Over time, Cooter's Place expanded to multiple locations in Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, Nashville, and Luray, showcasing an impressive collection of cars, costumes, props, photographs, and memorabilia from the show.

Born on August 30, 1941, Jones led a remarkable life that showcased his multifaceted talents as an actor, musician, author, entrepreneur, and dedicated public servant, leaving a lasting impact on the Hazzard County community and the state of Georgia, which he proudly represented in the United States House of Representatives from 1989 to 1993.

For a generation of viewers, Cooter embodies the spirit of kindness and generosity, leaving an indelible mark on our collective childhood memories. Ben Jones brought to life a character who inspires us to pay it forward, and his legacy will continue to uplift us long after Hazzard County fades from the screen.

Tom Wopat who played the part of Luke Duke on the beloved series had this to say: "
The Dukes of Hazzard lost another integral part of their cast today. Ben Jones was a fine friend and a fierce advocate of all the best things we can offer in the entertainment business. He will be sorely missed… Denver Pyle frequently said to Ben, “I’m not your Uncle Jesse!” But I feel like we lost a Duke cousin today."

"Breaker One, Breaker One, I might be crazy, but I ain't dumb! Craaazy Cooter comin' at ya! Y'all out there on the Hazzard net?"
Copy that Cooter, R.I.P. Ben Jones

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