

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

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### **Oldies but goodies reign at entrepreneur awards**

The theme for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards on Thursday night could have been "Revenge of the Gray Hairs."

Gone from the podium were the high-rolling startups and 20-something entrepreneurs who dominated the event during the tech boom. The winners at this year's ceremony, held at the Renaissance Austin Hotel, were "old economy" industry veterans, including:

\* John Mackey, founder of natural foods grocery chain Whole Foods Market Inc. The company has 143 stores and sales of \$3.2 billion.

\* Gary Wayne Keller, who 20 years ago launched Keller Williams Realty Inc., now the sixth-largest real estate company in the United States and Canada, with more than 19,000 agents.

\* Robert G.W. Girling, who founded Girling Health Care in 1967. The company provides homebound health care to more than 15,000 in five states.