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State small-biz day honors O.C. businesswoman

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ARTICLE

Irvine businesswoman Susan Johnson, founder of Susan's Healthy Gourmet, has received the 2011 California Small Business Association Award for the 70th Assembly district.

The award was present during 2011 California Small Business Day, an event created by the state legislature in 2000 to celebrate the contributions of small-business owners. The event is put on in Sacramento by volunteer small-business groups statewide.



Susan Johnson, founder of Susan's Healthy Gourmet in Irvine, was honored on California Small Business Day, June 6, 2011.

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Johnson, who lives in Newport Beach, founded Healthy Gourmet in 1996 to prepare and deliver healthy meals. In 2002 she changed the name to Susan's Healthy Gourmet. She bought LifeSpring Nutrition, which makes frozen healthy meals for seniors, in 2003. Then she [co-founded Xan Confections](#) in 2009 to make hand-crafted sweets including gluten-free and vegan varieties.

Ernst & Young named Johnson [a finalist for the local Entrepreneur of the Year awards](#) in 2009, and [Enterprising Woman magazine honored her](#) in 2011.

The most recent honor stems from her business acumen, generous mentoring of new women business owners and involvement in charities and community groups. She was chosen by Assemblyman Donald P. Wagner (R-Irvine).

"This recognition is truly an honor for myself as well as for our three companies, Johnson said. "I am very pleased to see the state legislature spotlight the important work small businesses are doing as they represent the true business engine of California."