

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO  
Form 4  
December 02, 2009

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
CHENAULT KENNETH I

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3 WORLD FINANCIAL  
CENTER, 200 VESEY ST,  
AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10285

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
11/30/2009

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Chief Executive Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V Amount (A) or (D) Price   |   |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 11/19/2009                           |  | G                              | V 610 D \$ 0  | 1,021,168   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 11/30/2009                           |  | M                              | 462,673 A \$ 38.224   | 1,483,841   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 11/30/2009                           |  | F <sup>(1)</sup>               | 444,413 D \$ 41.33  | 1,039,428   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 22,139 <sup>(2)</sup>   | I  | By 401(k) Plan  |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 5,265   | I  | GRAT 2005   |

|                 |  |       |   |                              |
|-----------------|--|-------|---|------------------------------|
| Common<br>Stock |  | 8,783 | I | Wife As<br>Trustee/custodian |
|-----------------|--|-------|---|------------------------------|

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4, and<br>5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount<br>Underlying Security<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |                 |                            |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
|   |  |   |   | Code                                 | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration<br>Date   | Title           | Amount<br>Number<br>Shares |
| Employee<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(Right to<br>Buy)    | \$ 38.224  | 11/30/2009                              |   | M                                    | 462,673   | 02/28/2002 <sup>(3)</sup>                                      | 02/28/2010   | Common<br>Stock | 462,673                    |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| CHENAULT KENNETH I<br>3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER<br>200 VESEY ST, AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER<br>NEW YORK, NY 10285 | X             |           | Chief Executive Officer |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Michael G. Kuchs,  
attorney-in-fact

12/02/2009

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

The reported disposition represents the surrender of previously owned shares to cover the cost of exercise and tax obligations relating to  
(1) the exercise of employee stock options scheduled to expire in February 2010. As a result of this transaction Mr. Chenault increased his direct ownership of common shares.

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- (2) Shares held in reporting person's account under the Company's Retirement Savings Plan. This plan uses unit accounting, and the number of shares that a participant is deemed to hold varies with the unit price of the Company pooled stock fund.
- (3) These options vested in three equal annual installments beginning on the date shown as "Date Exercisable" and expire on February 28, 2010.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.