

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO  
Form 4  
January 26, 2012

**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)

01/24/2012

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 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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)<br>Code V Amount (D) Price                             |   |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 03/08/2011                           |  | G                              | V 340 D \$ 0  | 865,154   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 05/06/2011                           |  | G                              | V 997 D \$ 0  | 864,157   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 05/06/2011                           |  | G                              | V 498 D \$ 0  | 863,659   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 05/06/2011                           |  | G                              | V 3,988 D \$ 0  | 859,671   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 05/06/2011                           |  | G                              | V 7,976 D \$ 0  | 851,695   | D  |   |

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|              |            |   |   |       |   |      |                         |   |                           |
|--------------|------------|---|---|-------|---|------|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Common Stock | 05/06/2011 | G | V | 4,985 | D | \$ 0 | 846,710                 | D |                           |
| Common Stock | 05/06/2011 | G | V | 3,998 | D | \$ 0 | 842,712                 | D |                           |
| Common Stock | 05/09/2011 | G | V | 500   | D | \$ 0 | 842,212                 | D |                           |
| Common Stock | 05/19/2011 | G | V | 1,639 | D | \$ 0 | 840,573                 | D |                           |
| Common Stock |            |   |   |       |   |      | 85,220                  | I | By Wife                   |
| Common Stock |            |   |   |       |   |      | 10,921                  | I | Wife As Trustee/custodian |
| Common Stock |            |   |   |       |   |      | 22,972.47<br><u>(1)</u> | I | By 401(k) Plan            |

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 Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code V (A) (D)                 |   | Date Exercisable Expiration Date                         | Title Amount Number of Shares                               |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 49.23   | 01/24/2012                           |  | A                              | 123,706   | 01/24/2013 <sup>(2)</sup> 01/23/2022                     | Common Stock 123  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                 | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| CHENAULT KENNETH I<br>3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER | X             |           | Chief Executive Officer |       |

200 VESEY ST, AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER  
NEW YORK, NY 10285

## Signatures

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

01/26/2012

\_\_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).
- (1) 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.
- (2) These shares become exercisable in four cumulative annual installments of 25% each beginning on date shown as "Date Exercisable."

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