Glenn William H Form 3 October 02, 2008

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

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP] A Glenn William H (Month/Day/Year) 09/22/2008 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 200 VESEY STREET (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) 10% Owner Director _X_ Form filed by One Reporting _X__ Officer Other Person NEW YORK, Â NYÂ 10285 (give title below) (specify below) Form filed by More than One **Executive Vice President** Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 2. Amount of Securities 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) D Â Common Stock 25,269 Common Stock 157 (1) I 401(k) Plan Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly.

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

3. Title and Amount of 6. Nature of Indirect 1. Title of Derivative 2. Date Exercisable and 5. Security **Expiration Date** Securities Underlying Conversion Ownership Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 4) Derivative Security or Exercise Form of Ownership (Instr. 4) Price of Derivative (Instr. 5) Derivative Security:

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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Security	Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	09/04/2005	09/03/2012	Common Stock	15,308	\$ 29.814	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/27/2007	01/26/2013	Common Stock	34,272	\$ 29.239	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/26/2005(2)	01/25/2014	Common Stock	68,544	\$ 43.977	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/24/2006(2)	01/23/2015	Common Stock	26,275	\$ 45.768	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/24/2006(2)	01/23/2015	Common Stock	34,272	\$ 45.768	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	07/25/2006(2)	07/24/2015	Common Stock	19,421	\$ 48.083	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/23/2007(2)	01/22/2016	Common Stock	110,000	\$ 51.865	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/25/2010(3)	01/24/2017	Common Stock	200,000	\$ 57.77	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/25/2008(2)	01/24/2017	Common Stock	100,000	\$ 57.77	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	07/31/2008(2)	07/30/2017	Common Stock	15,000	\$ 58.54	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/31/2009(2)	01/30/2018	Common Stock	115,000	\$ 49.13	D	Â
Phantom Stock Units	(4)	(4)	Common Stock	138 (5)	\$ (6)	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
1 0	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Othe		
Glenn William H 200 VESEY STREET NEW YORK. NY 10285	Â	Â	Executive Vice President	Â		

Signatures

/s/ William H. Glenn by Stephen P. Norman, attorney-in-fact 09/30/2008

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reporting Owners 2

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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."
- (3) These shares become exercisable in three annual installments beginning on date shown as "Date Exercisable."
- (4) The units are to be settled following the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.
- (5) The reported phantom stock units were acquired under the Company's Supplemental Retirement Plan.
- (6) The phantom stock converts into common stock on a one-for-one basis.

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Remarks:

Exhibit List

Exhibit 24 - Power of Attorney

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.